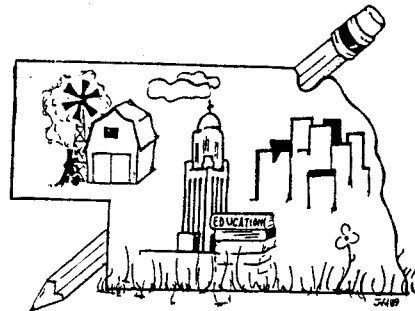


# The Nebraska Observer

Vol. 5, No. 7, June 28, 1990



## Kimball Incinerator a Plot to Burn N-Waste?

by Colleen Aagesen

John Sarich, Omaha insurance executive and Kimball property owner, is suspicious. "It's too convenient," said Sarich. "Rocky Flats is a three-hour truck drive away from Kimball."

Kimball, on the panhandle near the Colorado and Wyoming borders, is the host of a new incinerator scheduled to be built by Waste-Tech, Inc., prior to 1988 a subsidiary of Bechtel, presently a subsidiary of Amoco. Rocky Flats is the nuclear weapons facility in Colorado the federal government is cleaning up.

Nuclear waste in an incinerator? The Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission's own publication (August 1987) discusses incineration as one of the two most feasible treatment technologies, along with compaction. The publication reads: "Incineration: drastically reduces volume; concentrates radiological hazard; reduces toxic and biological hazard; expensive; limited licensing and operating experience in U.S."

What makes Sarich wonder, he said, is that every time he asks a question about BRC — the acronym stands for "Below Regulatory Concern" — he doesn't get an answer.

Sarich also cites a document that identifies Texas, Illinois, and Nebraska as the three states that will be taking low-level waste from Rocky Flats. Sarich said that Illinois and Texas have resisted; Nebraska has not.

### 'A Hidden Agenda'

According to Citizen Action in Lincoln, BRC would allow about 30 percent of the low-level nuclear waste to be deregulated, which would allow it to go into landfills, incinerators or sewers.

Hugh Kaufman, Washington D.C. EPA administrator and citizen-advocate on his own time, said BRC nuclear wastes can end up anywhere, "even in the recycled metal of a frying pan."

"It's a hidden agenda," Sarich said. "We have the pieces of a puzzle enabling Nebraska to become a complete repository and satisfy Washington that it has a state that will take anything."

Sarich said the Orr administration has not listened to any of the opponents of the Kimball incinerator or the low-level nuclear waste facility. "Orr won't back off this thing, in spite of what she has learned about community consent." He feels that the Orr administration's failure to respond to his suspicion about their hidden agenda is in itself an indictment of their intentions to burn nuclear waste.

Sarich has been fighting the Kimball in-

cinerator for more than a year and a half. As an insurance expert, he squared off against Forward Kimball Industries (the Kimball people supporting the incinerator) in his testimony against the delisting of the ash. After the Environmental Control Council approved Waste-Tech's application to delist its ash, Concerned Citizens of Kimball County (those Kimball County people opposing the incinerator) had to fight for both their land and their air, since the ash would now qualify for burial on an on-site landfill.

### 'Increase Controls, Not Decrease'

The delisting last May of the ash in Kimball, which means Waste-Tech does not have to ship its ash to a hazardous-waste facility, parallels the BRC of the nuclear facilities — both are moving in the direction of deregulation and cost savings.

Kaufman said, "Now is the time to increase controls, not decrease them." He said the purpose of BRC is to help the financial costs of power plants at increased risk to the public.

"The BRC of nuclear waste is on a fast track," Sarich said. "Government and the industry have realized recently the extent of the radioactive waste problem. It is a disaster. The Kimball facility will solve the Rocky Flats problem."

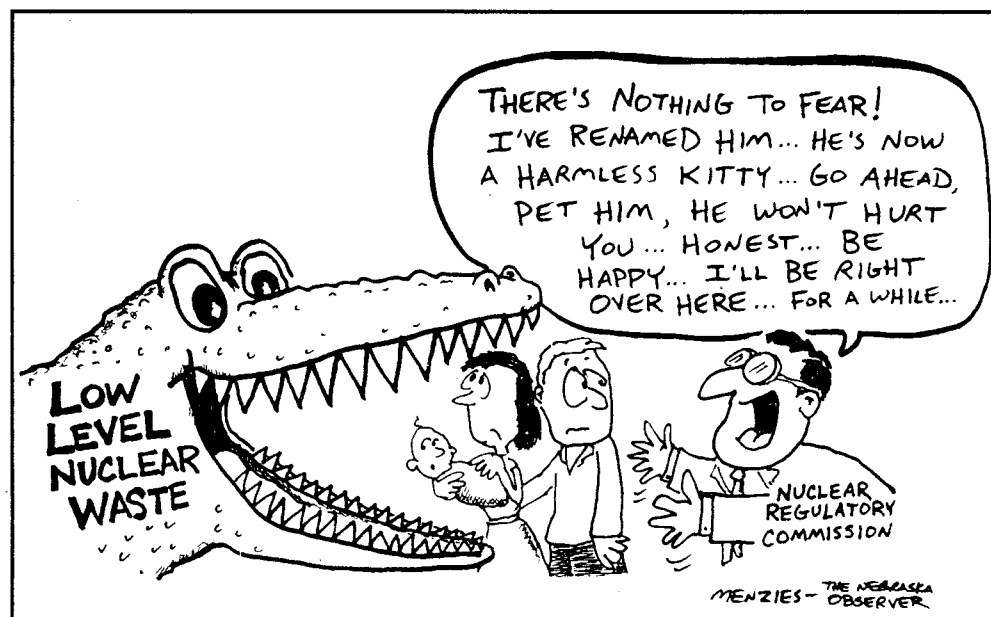
Sarich said the nuclear power industry and Washington don't want to face up to the liability issue. "The public perception of nuclear power is that it is cheap energy, but the disposal and decommissioning costs are never factored into it."

"BRC runs counter to the logic of RCRA (Resource Conservation Recovery Act). This act is a 'cradle to grave' liability for the generators of hazardous waste. The intent of the law is to encourage generators to minimize production of hazardous wastes to begin with, to encourage industry to come up with non-hazardous alternatives."

### A 'Real Witches' Brew'

Another problem with BRC, Sarich said, is the unregulated nuclear waste which will be mixed with hazardous waste, creating a "real witches' brew." "Some of this stuff will be around longer than any containers have been around to hold them," he said.

But Forward Kimball Industries wants an incinerator. And yet another community is divided like nuclear waste dump finalists Boyd, Nuckolls and Nemaha counties. Recently an anonymous flier accusing farmers of being the polluters was circulated. "Many folks are afraid to speak out publicly against



the incinerator for fear of losing their jobs," Sarich said. Sarich said it is also interesting that Waste-Tech chose a location on a state border, just like the locations of the nuclear storage finalists. "A border location limits the opposition," he said.

"And we don't really need the incinerator," Sarich said. "Right now in Nebraska we treat more hazardous waste than we generate."

Dorothy Lanphier, a member of CLEAN, an organization who helped fight off an incinerator in Northeast Omaha, said we often hear incinerator promoters talk about how successful incineration is in Europe. "But their waste stream is so much different," she said. "The people use string bags, and there are some strong recycling programs."

"The Kimball incinerator makes no sense unless Nebraska gets into the business of

*Continued on page 8*

## Inside:

Abortion. pp.2, 6, and 7

Franklin Grand  
Jury—What if No  
Indictments? p.3

Chambers Criticizes  
ADL—p. 8

Kaufman in Boyd  
County. p. 13

Real Nebraska Cuisine.  
p. 16

the nebraska observer  
P.O. Box 31383, Omaha, NE 68131

Address Correction Requested

### Subscription Status

(To subscribe or renew use page 2 coupon)

BULK RATE  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
OMAHA, NE  
PERMIT NO. 1064

# Thoughts On the Acquittal of Abortion Protesters

by Frances Mendenhall

The June 22 acquittal of 17 pro-life demonstrators deserves serious attention by all who care about the abortion debate. Those charged with criminal trespassing were defended by the "necessity" argument, that is, that it was necessary to commit one evil to prevent a greater evil. In the trial, attorney Peter Bataillon used testimony from two doctors and a videotape about the beginnings of life to convince the six-woman jury that abortion is the murder of human beings, and that their death is "dramatic, painful, and grotesque." Testimony of defendants who were victims of post-abortion trauma also was given. The case was prosecuted, at the election of city prosecuting attorney Michael Tesar, under state law, which guaranteed the defendants a jury trial. No attempt was made to rebut the evidence presented by the defense. According to the World-Herald, no appeal is planned.

What are we to make of this ruling? It is surely regarded as a cause for celebration among those who favor criminalizing abortion, but is it really a major watershed? Will all future court cases be successfully defined in terms set by the pro-life movement? Will the safeguarding of fetal life be the primary consideration in the debate? Or was this case just a fluke resulting from an inadequate prosecution?

I believe it is some of each.

Since 1973 the pro-choice movement has backed away from addressing the question of when in gestation a person exists. This has been a successful short-run strategy because the court systems have trouble handling that question too, but are much stronger on the rights of individuals that we all agree are persons. The debate has as a result become much more polarized here than in European democracies where local community standards were allowed to come into play more and the language of rights was given less importance (see Abortion and Divorce in Western Law by Mary Ann Glendon).

It is, however, not a viable long-range strategy. The pro-life movement didn't go away in 1973. Its basic questions about bi-

oethics remain valid. It wins new court battles monthly. It will no longer do to answer the question of when personhood begins with "none of your business."

The Nebraska Observer is committed to this discussion. We believe that the issue must eventually be resolved by compromises such as have been made in Europe, which have successfully honored most of the values of both schools of thought while avoiding the worst fears of either camp. We have sought articles from pro-life people who have shown an understanding of the plight of women, as well as pro-choice people who have admitted that fetuses should be valued (see article on page 6 by Frances Kissling of Catholics for a Free Choice). We have also blasted opinions we considered so antagonistic as to work against any hope for dialogue. There can, after all, be no hope for a permanent resolution to this problem without consensus. The pro-life movement will stay with us, but so will the reliance on abortion, for women in all strata, occurring 25 percent more often than divorce.

I would like both camps to give up some ground.

What I would ask of the pro-life movement is that it gets serious about recognizing the need for *effective* birth control methods. It is not enough that most groups take no official position on this subject except to advocate natural family planning. What is needed is the

simple understanding of public health realities as the Europeans have done, as Americans such as C. Everett Koop have done: the best way to prevent abortion is to prevent unwanted pregnancy. Americans have a very limited choice of methods of preventing pregnancy, and research for new methods gets very little support. To demand better would not be advocating promiscuity, just responsibility.

What I would ask of the pro-choice movement is that it recognizes biological realities; when the pro-lifers describe abortion as destroying a being with functioning organ systems (except for the brain and lungs) they are correct for the 50 percent of abortions that occur after eight weeks. A fetus, which is what we call the conceptus after eight weeks, is like a comatose adult on a respirator, except that the fetus has had no life experience, and we must balance its needs against those of a person rather than an inanimate respirator. If we all agree that killing newborns is wrong then what are the events that define personhood and make it wrong to kill them? Do they happen before birth?

It would not be necessary to state universal norms that every pro-choice group agreed on -- that will never happen. Neither would such an affirmation open the door to state enforced pregnancy. Only an extremist would say that respect for life, or any ethical principle, should be applied absolutely and at the expense of all

other values. But it would ease the minds of many to hear that pro-choice people see abortion as tragic.

So what to make of the June 22 acquittal?

Certain things suggest that such outcomes probably will not become routine.

The first comparison that comes to mind is with similar trials of peace demonstrators. Activist Marylyn Felion tells us that neither the necessity defense nor a jury trial have ever been allowed in an Omaha court, and rarely anywhere else, for those who do civil disobedience to protest U.S. nuclear policy, although the crime of criminal trespassing was similar and the maximum sentence was comparable. Opponents of U.S. nuclear strategy have not been allowed to use their trials as a forum to decry the evils of nuclear war. Can nuclear war, which threatens to kill all life, animal and vegetable, born and unborn, be thought of as any less evil than abortion?

Second, it does not seem likely that a future prosecutor will so easily acquiesce to a jury trial (the defendants were guaranteed a jury trial because the prosecutor elected to try the case under state law rather than city law) nor fail to oppose the testimony offered (we were struck that the alleged experience of pain by the fetus was not disputed. This subject deserves more discussion than we have room for here, but the important things

*Continued on page 13*

## Observer Deadlines

*The next issue of the Nebraska Observer will be published July 25. We must receive your story ideas by July 13. Copy is due July 18.*

*Story ideas for the August 30 edition are due August 15. Copy is due August 23.*

## Sign me up for the Observer!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The Nebraska Observer • P.O. Box 31383 • Omaha, NE 68131

I want to receive the Observer and enclosed the following donation.\*

\_\_\_ \$20 member

\_\_\_ \$50 sustainer

I am enclosing names and addresses of others who might like to subscribe.

**Omaha Residents**

\_\_\_ I can help with mailings

\_\_\_ I have computer skills to share.

\*The Nebraska Observer needs at least \$20 per year from every employed member.

**Editor**  
Frances Mendenhall

**Contributing Editor**  
John Boyd

**Copy Editor**  
Karen Nelson

**PC Page Makeup**  
Anthony Carr

**Circulation**  
Jean Holland

**Board of Directors**  
Jim Cavanaugh  
Dick Dinsmore  
Frances Mendenhall

**Contributing Writers and Artists:**  
Colleen Aagesen  
Isabel Cohen  
Frances Mendenhall  
John Menzies

The Nebraska Observer is distributed monthly by the Nebraska Citizens' Publishing Group, a non-profit corporation. The Nebraska Observer was formerly published under the name WHAMO

Letters and manuscripts may be sent to:

P.O. Box 31383, Omaha, NE 68131

They should include the author's phone number and address. Works may be published under a pseudonym at the discretion of the editor.

Phone: 402-551-2629

Questions about your subscription? Call Jean Holland at 342-4889.

## Chambers Speaks at Concerned Parents Meeting

# No Franklin Indictments Means 'It's All Over'

by Frances Mendenhall

State Sen. Ernie Chambers has had serious questions about the usefulness of the Douglas County grand jury that has been investigating allegations of child sexual abuse, drug abuse, and child prostitution by prominent Omahans in relation to the Franklin Credit Union failure since March 19. Chambers, who did not lend any support to the discussions by citizens last summer about petitioning for a grand jury — including a call for a grand jury a year ago by the Observer — doubts that any indictments will come of the proceedings. "If no indictments come, it's all over," Chambers told a meeting of Concerned Parents held June 21 at Bethel Lutheran Church. Although he encouraged the group to keep the issue alive, to hold public demonstrations, and to continue to demand justice by writing to the state Supreme Court and the Chief Justice William Hastings, and the state attorney general, Robert Spire, he did not offer a likely positive outcome.

### Intended As a Cover-up

Chambers repeated and detailed his position that the grand jury was intended by the judges who called it to cover up the guilt of prominent powerful people including national figures as well as Omahans. Among the evidence that was cited was his belief that Samuel Van Pelt was selected as special prosecutor over Spire's recommendation of Vincent Valentino of York because Van Pelt was, unlike Valentino, one of the Omaha-Lincoln "good-old-boys network," and could be counted on to give the appearance that an investigation had occurred, but in fact prevent any real findings. Chambers commented that, unlike Van Pelt, Vincent Valentino is an experienced prosecutor who "like a pitbull would focus on his goal and go over you or through you to reach his objective."

Chambers believed that Van Pelt was sincere, but slow and inept. Chambers had complained in late May about Van Pelt's having sought a court order for blood tests from the 21-year old witness victim and her daughter to verify allegations of paternity. Both Chambers and the attorney for the 21-year old believed that better security should have been assured both for the collection of the sample from the alleged father, and for the uniformity of the testing of all three samples. Since such security was lacking, there was suspicion that the testing was being intentionally set up to disprove paternity.

### Formal Complaints

Additionally, Chambers believes and has stated in formal complaints against Van Pelt, that Van Pelt's ordering of the samples from the 21-year old was illegal and intended to coerce her into compliance. His complaints have gone to the chief justice of the state Supreme Court, Counsel for Discipline of the

Bar Association and the attorney general, and have not been answered, according to Chambers, except to inform him that his letter has been referred to someone else to handle.

Chambers has also filed complaints against the Assistant Special Prosecutor, Terry Dougherty, and Douglas County District Judge James Murphy, who issued the order for the blood tests that was later rescinded.

The complaint against Dougherty concerned his alleged misconduct over his handling of a potential witness who have had a change of heart about testifying due to the attempt at forcing the witness-victim to involuntarily give blood samples.

Chambers recalled Van Pelt's role as investigator of the 1984 shooting of Cairo farmer Arthur Kirk who was killed when three armed men served foreclosure papers on his farm. Kirk was known to have several guns in his house, but Chambers described them as mostly antiques and incapable of delivering bullets. Others have criticized Van Pelt for effectively exonerating the SWAT team who killed Kirk when he failed to request a ballistics test to determine whether Van Pelt had even fired any of his guns. The result of Van Pelt's investigation, according to Chambers and others who have criticized it, was that the interests of those who were foreclosing were served by the investigation.

Chambers also touched on suspicions that others have voiced about the stifling effect the grand jury has had on those who testified. Some witnesses have been required to sign a secrecy oath, promising not to discuss their testimony outside the court. The result has been that information that might have been available to others writing about or investigating the matter was shut off. Some information, however, was allowed to get out, Chambers pointed out. The fact that Mayor Morgan was mentioned as having attended one of Larry King's parties where teenagers were allegedly sexually abused was brought to Morgan's attention, and he promptly responded. "Who told him?" Chambers asked rhetorically.

A secretary in Van Pelt's office told this reporter that he would not be talking to the press until the grand jury had made its report.

### Complaints About Media Coverage

Chambers said media should have been more aggressive, recalling that the sex abuse charges were for months greatly outweighed in the mainstream media by coverage of the financial issue of the failed credit union. This brought applause from the audience.

Chambers also asked for more understanding of difficulty of recalling a traumatic event that had happened several years previously.

Concerned Parents has repeatedly challenged the media treatment of the witness-victims, especially by the World-Herald. At the June 21 meeting two members of the

audience again raised the issue of the difference between the protective attitude the paper has had toward the alleged perpetrators, versus the endless detail about the young victims, including their high school grades, reminders of the bad check conviction of one of them, and the fact that one backed off from absolute certainty about naming a certain individual as a perpetrator. Concerned Parents believes that some of this information was gotten from documents that had been illegally procured.

Sparks flew as the World-Herald writer who was present at the meeting was targeted for several angry comments from the audience.

### Legislative Committee Would Release Transcript

On KMTV's June 22 "Franklin File" program Sen. Loran Schmit, the chair of the legislative Special Committee to investigate the sex abuse allegations commented on the expected outcome of the grand jury. Schmit said he would not judge the grand jury until the decisions were all in. As to what the Special Committee might be expected to do if no indictments were forthcoming, Sen. Schmit said that he assumed the final report of the committee would be made public. He said he was not opposed to releasing the entire transcript for the public to view. He said he knows of no procedure in Nebraska statutes for the

THE VICTIM WITNESSES CAN'T REMEMBER DETAILS AFTER ALL OF THESE YEARS... SOME HAVE CHANGED THEIR STORIES... THEY'VE LOST ALL CREDIBILITY!

FUNNY... IT SEEMED TO WORK FOR OUR FORMER PRESIDENT...



work of a Nebraska state Legislative Committee to be sealed. "The report was paid for by the public, the public ought to have a right to review it," said Schmit.

Two days after Chambers spoke, Concerned Parents conducted a candlelight vigil outside the Douglas County courthouse where the grand jury meets.

Meanwhile, Concerned Parents is assessing its role and direction. While it still may be theoretically possible to pursue legal action through a civil suit, those people involved have some doubts about the feasibility, because the young people involved have become so weary of the repeated nonproductive investigations that not only reopened old wounds, but resulted in new assaults on their credibility.

## Waste Compact Annual Meeting

According to the World-Herald (June 23, 1990), the Central States Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact's annual meeting will now be held in Nebraska, instead of Arkansas. (Makes sense since we are the host state.) It will held in Omaha on July 30 at 8:30 a.m. at the Red Lion, not Boyd County, the proposed "best site." "Questions about the financial health of the companies have been raised since Browning-Ferris Industries, a national leader in solid-waste disposal, recently declined an option to buy a controlling interest in American Ecology," according to the article. American Ecology is the parent company of US Ecology. Please plan to attend, and bring all your friends!

# BRC and ERC Spell More Radiation Exposure

Diane D'Arrigo of the Nuclear Information and Research Service in Washington, D. C. spoke via long-distance speaker phone to a meeting June 13 in Lincoln hosted by Citizen Action. There were many environmental groups represented from around Nebraska, including Recycle Omaha, Missouri Valley Sierra Club, Nebraska Sierra Club, Ecology Now Omaha, Ecology Now Lincoln, Nebraskans for Peace Lincoln, CLEAN, ACRES, Concerned Citizens of Nuckolls County, Concerned Citizens of Nemaha County, Nebraska Resource Protection Association, and Citizen Action Lincoln. The group decided to draft a resolution protesting the implementation of BRC and to present it to OPPD at a press conference.

by Isabel Cohen

The author is Vice-Chairman of Recycle Omaha.

In 1985 Congress passed the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act and directed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to consider alternative disposal methods for certain nuclear wastes. According to the U. S. Council for Energy Awareness, industry undertook a comprehensive two-year study through the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). \$2 million-plus later, we have the NRC preparing to deregulate about one-third of the nation's low-level nuclear waste. When decommissioning waste is included this portion could reach 60 percent, according to the EPRI. The NRC's answer is BRC/ERC. BRC means "Below Regulatory Concern" and ERC means "Exempt from Regulatory Concern." What they mean for Americans is more exposure to radiation.

This BRC waste will go into our ordinary landfills, incinerators, and sewer systems. Why would the NRC do this? Obviously to save on costs of storage and disposal. When I

spoke with John K. Green, an OPPD director, he said the same thing. The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission's job is to set standards, write the rules and police the utilities which own nuclear waste-producing power plants. If the NRC manages to reclassify the waste "below regulatory concern or BRC, this just means they are giving up on their job. Even "low-level" nuclear waste includes radionuclides with hazardous lives of more than 100,000 years.

The exposure level the NRC deems acceptable is 100 millirems (millirems measure the biological effect of an absorbed dose of radiation). The cancer risk from this dosage is five additional cancer deaths per 100,000 exposed persons. This translates into 12,500 people in the United States, based on our population. (If everyone in the U.S. received the maximum dose proposed by the NRC, the radiation risk data used by the NRC would predict an additional 12,500 cancer deaths per year in this country.) Recent data from the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences suggests the cancer risk may actually be almost 60 percent higher than the NRC's estimate, according to an article in the National Academy Press by the Committee of Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation of the NRC, National Academy of Sciences (BEIR). In the NRC's judgment, this level of increased risk is of little concern to the American public.

ERC, "Exempt from Regulatory Concern," poses even greater risks. If implemented, ERC would allow radioactive materials to be recycled into consumer products, release contaminated land and buildings for public use, and allow the disposal of radioactive material in water.

Who will monitor BRC and ERC wastes? Even if the NRC planned to, which they do

## A Nuclear Physicist's Viewpoint

John Gofman, Professor Emeritus of Medical Physics at the University of California at Berkeley and Associate Director of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory from 1963-1969 says:

"With our tax dollars, the government has cultivated an endless supply of courtroom witnesses and media-ready experts willing to say after a leak of radioactivity from a nuclear plant, that radiation levels represent no harm to public health. For this to be true, there would have to exist a 'safe' or 'threshold' dose. No evidence supports the idea of a threshold dose."

Gofman says that exposure levels are 10 to 30 times greater than reported — the BEIR (Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation) Committee of the National Academy of Sciences says fatal cancers per million persons exposed is 177 to 353. Gofman says the actual figure is 3,771.

"Do not wonder why so few other experts share my analysis of the human

evidence . . . If one's livelihood comes from government support, one dare not find low doses of radiation to be harmful," Gofman says. "The nuclear utilities, losing public approval long before Chernobyl, are preparing a desperate offensive which will suggest that maybe extra radiation is good for people and that people don't receive enough of it."

"Utilities have always refused to operate nuclear power plants unless Congress limits their financial responsibility for the radiation damages which may result. Their own 'defense in depth' consists of Congress."

"Pressure Congress to vote by roll call to end liability limits — which are up for renewal this year — and to require that utilities either gamble all their pooled, aggregate assets against the accidents they claim can't or won't happen here, or else get out of nuclear power. Then watch what utilities do, not what they say."

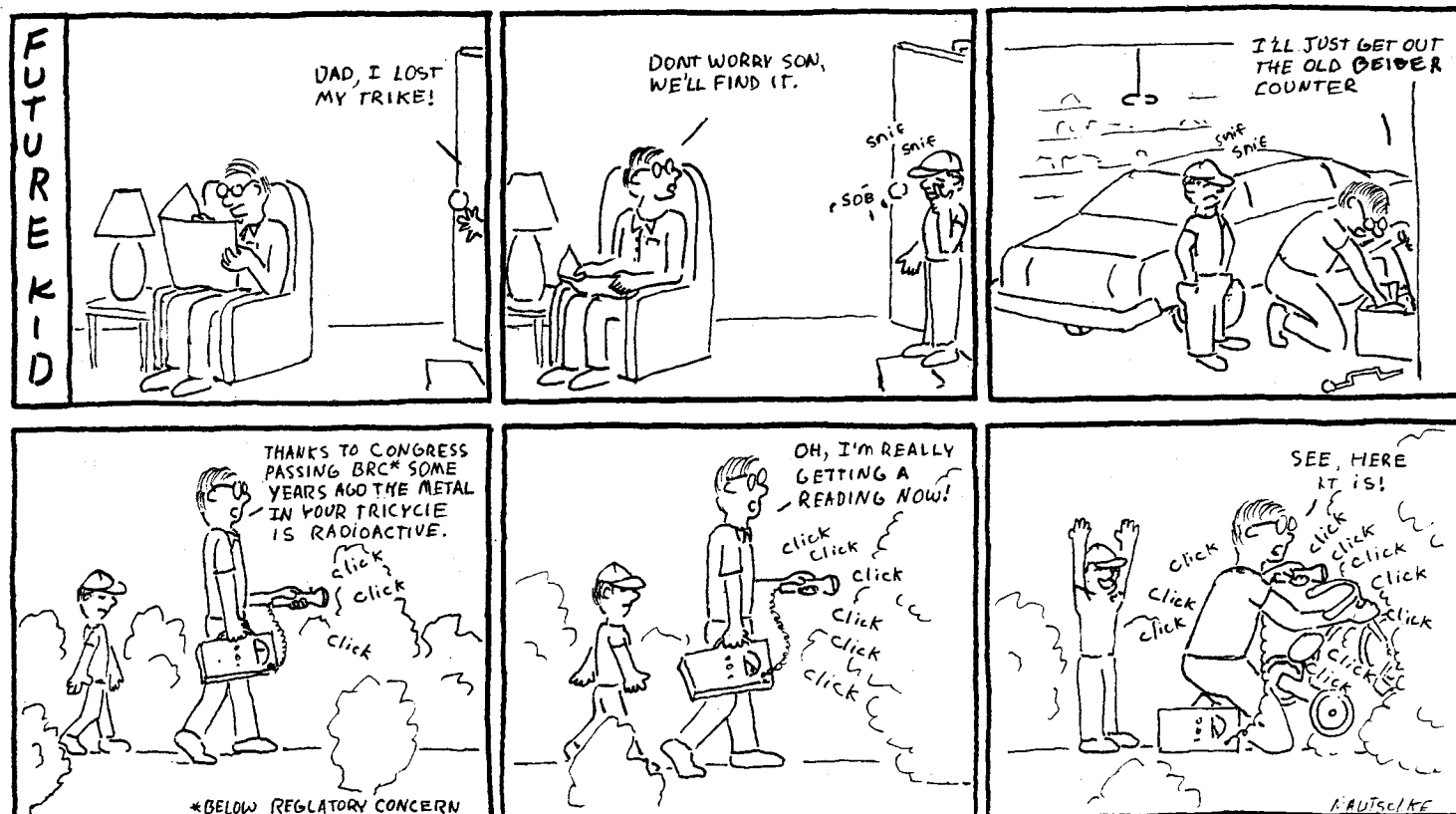
not, how would they? Minnesota, Maine and Vermont have already passed laws prohibiting the reclassification of nuclear wastes. Iowa has passed a law that no radioactive waste of any kind is allowed in their landfills — BRC or ERC. The message strikes loud and clear — the government does not know what to do with this waste, so let's just push it off on the states! It worked with the compacts...sort of...Nebraskans lined up...and voted....

The NRC has no scientific basis for raising this level of exposure or for deregulating BRC. Nebraskans can pass legislation pro-

hibiting radioactive materials in their landfills.

The DOE says cleaning up the 22 contaminated waste dumps across the country will be much easier if this BRC Regulation comes into being. BFI (Browning-Ferris, the nation's second largest hazardous waste handler) has had so many huge fines imposed against them that they are dropping all hazardous-waste operations to concentrate on non-hazardous ones. If BRC/ERC becomes a reality, there may be no such thing!

Please let your OPPD and NPPD Board of Directors know how you feel about this as soon as possible. Our elected officials must be held accountable. The nuclear industry will file application for BRC on June 28, according to the NRC. Unless we act quickly, BRC/ERC will automatically go into effect eight months later. Citizen Action, along with other environmental organizations and people from around the state, plan to have a press conference on June 27, as this paper goes to press. It will be held at OPPD headquarters in downtown Omaha and a resolution calling for repeal of BRC will be presented to the Board. Write a letter to your local newspaper. Send a copy to your Congresspeople in D.C. and your Senators in the Unicameral. They can legislate to stop BRC. According to "Radiation in Your Garbage?", a brochure sponsored by Citizen Action, few in Congress knew they were approving a BRC policy when they passed the Low-Level Nuclear Waste Amendments Act in 1985. The national organizations which have called for a stop to BRC include National Audubon Society, Izaak Walton League, Greenpeace, National Parks and Conservation Association, National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, Oceanic Society, and U.S. Public Interest Group.





# 'Fangless Feds' Footdragging on Financial Fraud

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON "A corporate lawyer representing General Electric, Martin Marietta, ITT and other wealthy firms with checkered pasts, recently came up with a memorable metaphor in service of her clients. A "corporate death penalty" could result if the Justice Department carries out proposals for tough mandatory fines for companies convicted of such crimes as overcharging the government, polluting waterways or dumping toxic wastes.

The overblown metaphor, raising the specter of a death sentence on corporate profits if stiff fines are imposed, had a taker in Attorney General Richard Thornburgh. The U.S. Sentencing Commission had proposed requiring federal judges to hit convicted corporations with fines as high as hundreds of millions of dollars. Thornburgh, a wrist-slapper, tenderly reversed his department's "strong support" for the commission's proposals.

What might have been dismissed as a lapse is now seen to be a pattern. On May 25, more than 200 members of Congress wrote to President Bush to ask why a reign of laxness has overtaken the Justice Department's prosecution of financial institution fraud and embezzlement cases. "As of February 1990, there were over 21,000 fraud and embezzlement referrals and complaints unaddressed by the FBI," the letter stated. "Two hundred and thirty-four of these referrals involve potential losses of \$1 million or more." Under the 1989 Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act, Congress authorized \$75 million to pursue and prosecute fraud and embezzlement cases.

As the load grows, the concern gets smaller. The department has sought only \$50 million for the next three years to carry out the law.

If street hoodlums in ski masks were holding up banks and S&Ls in million-dollar heists, who in the Justice Department or White House would be calling for less, if any, punishment? Would the lawyer representing General Electric plead for leniency for the same hoodlums? In the late 1970s, which was a decade before the S&L corruptions, it was estimated that six times more money was stolen by bank employees with pens than by bank robbers with guns.

Thornburgh, whose fanatical obsession to suppress Justice Department leaks led him to take a lie-detector test to prove to the world that he wasn't leaking on himself, borders on the grandiose in posing as a fierce chaser of boardroom offenders. When he called a press conference in late February to announce an indictment of Exxon Corporation and Exxon Shipping on criminal felony and misdemeanor charges arising from the March 1989 Alaskan oil spill, Thornburgh said he was "throwing the book" at the company. Aside from it being judges, not attorneys, who throw the book at defendants, Thornburgh neglected to mention that he had been considering settling claims against Exxon. It was after environmental groups and the state of Alaska protested this possible sweetheart settlement that Thornburgh came on as a crime buster. Even then, it was only the companies, and no executives, being indicted.

Thornburgh's posturing in the Exxon case, as well as backing off the imposing of hard sentences after complaints from large corporations, is standard policy. Russell Mokhiber, editor of the Corporate Crime Reporter, a Washington newsletter, said that the attorney general "always talks tough and sometimes acts tough but only when it comes to small companies and individuals. When it's the big

boys " Fortune 500 companies, the Business Round Table crowd " he goes limp."

With the feds becoming fangless, leadership in prosecuting business world criminals for negligence, manslaughter and environmental violence is coming from state legislatures and district attorneys. Minnesota, where now-retired Judge Miles Lord once meted out sentences to boardroom deviants as if they were street thugs, has a new Environmental Crimes Investigation Team. In California, the Corporate Criminal Liability Act, which would include the threat of jail time for executives and not merely company fines that are seen as

a business cost, has passed the Assembly and is before the Senate.

It is the national upsurge in criminal prosecutions that led corporate lawyers to persuade the Justice Department to call off its hounds. Some of America's richest corporations have committed crimes as destructive and as heinous as any psychopathic street criminal. Yet the hesitancy of an attorney general to punish upper-class brigands assures that maximum-security prisons will keep on housing the lower classes.

©1990, Washington Post Writers Group

## Konopacki



### Anti-Racism Coalition To March

The newly formed Coalition Against Racism has scheduled a march against racism in Nebraska July 7 in Omaha, Neb. The march will include a rally in front of the City-County Building at 4 p.m. The coalition wants to present the history of racism in Omaha, focus on current racial tensions and call for action to combat racism. As indicators of poor race relations, members point to the apparently racially motivated killing of a black youth at King's Lake, racial conflicts at local high schools, the Omaha City Council's lack of support for scattered-site housing and Affirmative Action, and accusations of police brutality and harassment from Omaha minorities. For more information contact Robin Carter, Nebraskans for Peace, 453-0776 or Alonzo Smith, Urban League of Nebraska, 453-9730.

### Writers and Storytellers

Manuscripts Being Accepted  
for  
the Anthology of the Nebraska Writing  
and Storytelling Festival  
Original literature by writers from the plains  
will be published in the fall.  
Contact Mel Krutz  
Central Community College  
P.O. Box 1027  
Columbus, NE 68602-1027

The  
Counter  
Press  
Club  
Ball is  
Coming

# Choice Advocates Should Affirm Worth of Fetus

The author is the founder and president of Catholics for a Free Choice. This article appeared, in an expanded form, in the March/April issue of *Conscience: A New Journal of Prochoice Catholic Opinion*.

by Frances Kissling

Perhaps we need to listen to the wisdom of more than 50 percent of our population. They hold in creative tension a basic sense of fair play in wanting women, with consultation, to make the decision about abortion or childbirth and a concern for the value of fetal life and the quality of women's decisions. Only then will we be in a position to advocate public policy that respects each individual woman and expresses our concern for human life and the community at large.

Concretely, we must stop criticizing moderate pro-choice voices: public officials (like Governor Mario Cuomo) who speak of the "tragedy" of abortion; of columnists (like Anna Quindlen of the New York Times) who express concerns about late-term abortions; and of theologians (like Giles Milhaven of Brown University) who speak of women's sadness after abortion. All contribute a richness of spirit to the debate that needs to be encouraged, not crushed.

Our own inability to acknowledge the tragedy of abortion makes us suspect. Our continuous talk about *wanted* children does not inspire confidence but fear. We live a world where our value is increasingly equated with wealth, brilliance or success. Many rightly perceive that they are powerless and unwanted. For the powerless, the fetus is a ready

symbol of their own vulnerability — a symbol exploited by right-wing leaders.

Acknowledging fetal life as valuable and as an important factor in decision making about abortion need not be linked to a specific religious doctrine. The Christian respect for life has never required the absolute protection of life. It does not require conferring personhood or rights on the fetus, nor does it suggest limiting the legal rights of women to decide whether to bring new life into the world or to have an abortion.

On the other hand, an enhanced sense of the value of fetal life should move us beyond the status quo on abortion and beyond an absolutist interpretation of the fundamental rights articulated in *Roe v. Wade*. On both principled and practical grounds, pro-choice advocates need to see *Roe* as a framework for good policy on abortion not as a fortress against policy.

Individual rights cannot, however, be slavishly pursued. Even the most fundamental rights are regulated under the Constitution. Many of us support even more regulation for any number of rights, such as the right to bear arms. Pro-choice advocates — not just those whose goal is prohibition — need to explore regulations that will enhance women's decision making in a manner that respects fetal life absolute. (At the same time, we must strongly reject policy measures whose only purpose is to limit or prohibit access to legal abortion.) We must see that such regulations, once enacted, are enforced scrupulously and noncoercively and that penalties for deliberately misinforming, coercing or unfairly in-

fluencing a woman's ability to make good decisions are promulgated and used.

Here, then, are some immediate guidelines and specific elements of a sound, stable public policy that can be implemented now and contribute to a balanced, long-term approach to the issue.

First, abortion laws need to acknowledge women's right — and need — to make reproductive health decisions free from coercion, as well as both women's and society's responsibility to create conditions for women to bring life into the world.

Either in the body of the law or by reference to other existing legislation, the community's reverence for life should be expressed in support of social and economic programs for children and families. A good model for this can be found in the legislative program of the Children's Defense Fund.

The balance between women's rights and reverence for life is best expressed by making resources available to assist women in good decision making and in preventing pregnancy. We should advocate a series of initiatives that signal *government involvement* as opposed to *intervention*. Among them: funding for voluntary non-directive, comprehensive and confidential counseling services for women and their partners who are contemplating abortion (no funds should be made available to groups that favor one decision over the other or that preclude any legal option from the range of choices offered); funding for more measures designed to prevent pregnancy, including contraceptive research and

testing as well as contraceptive education and services, and equitably distributing funds for adoption, abortion, childbearing and child rearing.

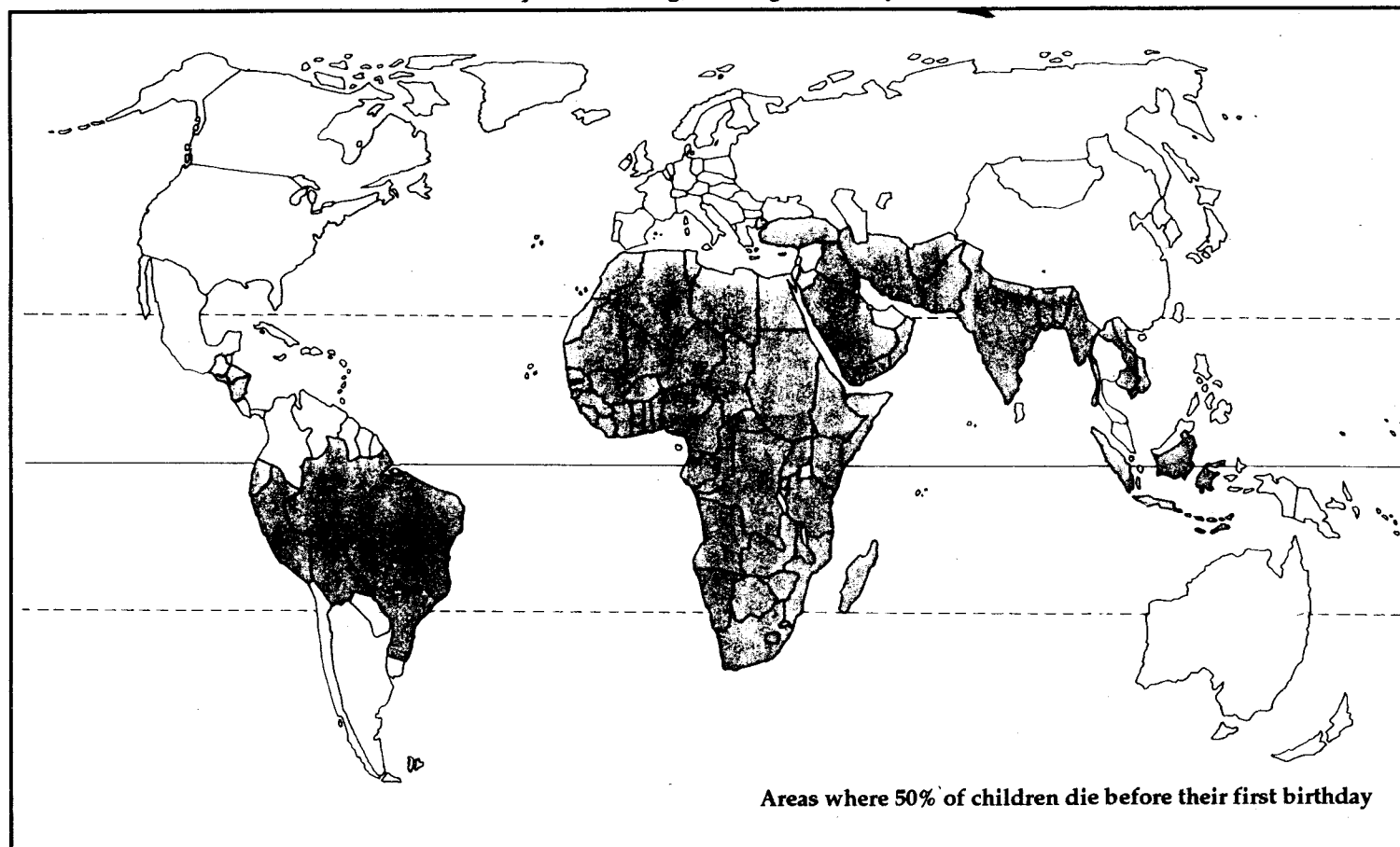
These funding proposals represent a major shift in policy and would be a significant compromise for both sides of the debate. Pro-choice advocates will need to accept greater government involvement as an expression of community consensus; in turn, the community, through the government, will need to back up its involvement with resources.

In a similar vein, I think the question of postviability abortions is of little practical significance and of enormous symbolic importance. In practice, it is extremely difficult to find a physician who will perform such abortions unless there is a serious physical, life-threatening condition for the woman or the fetus is diagnosed with profound abnormalities. *There is no evidence that the right to such abortions is necessary for women's well-being or full participation in society.* These facts, combined with the growing sense that fetal life deserves increasing respect as it develops should lead pro-choice advocates to accept legislation limiting postviability abortions to life-threatening or disabling cases.

Another frequently cited set of regulations on abortions are those requiring "informed consent." Up to now, the court has struck down such measures. In the post-*Webster* climate they will once again be raised. Without exception, all past informed consent laws were drafted by opponents of legal abortion — not to assist in good decision making but to prevent abortion. The information mandated was often biased, inaccurate and simplistic: "life begins at conception," "the heart beats at eight weeks," "abortion is dangerous and will make you sterile." Nondirective counseling is far more appropriate and respectful of women's capacity to make good decisions than existing informed consent approaches. Moreover, I cannot stress too strongly my belief that if the government is to be involved in the process of women's decision making, those who are entrusted with helping women need to be held to the highest standard of care.

For those whose interest is in outlawing abortion, the rather modest shift in both laws and values set forth here offers little. In the short run, these policy measures will not reduce the current number of abortions, which is troubling. It is important, however, that we not reduce abortion policy and values to a numbers game. The goal of caring people — eliminating all abortions — will require a radical transformation of society. We should focus our efforts on correcting the disease, not the symptom.

©1990 Christian Century Foundation. This article appeared in the Feb. 21, 1990 issue of the magazine as part of a debate on abortion.



## Pregnancy Transplant 'Like Jury Duty'

# A Better Way to Save Endangered Fetuses

by Frances Mendenhall

It was Jeannette, my radical feminist sister on the phone.

"Have you been following what they're doing in Seattle?" she asked. "They are about to make it possible to transplant an embryo or fetus at any stage to another uterus. They've already had great success in monkeys."

I hadn't heard, but was intrigued.

"Think what that will do to the abortion debate," said Jeannette. Women can now get unpregnant without necessarily killing the fetus."

"Don't be ridiculous," I said. "How will all the women who want abortions ever find volunteers to take over for them. And who's going to pay for it?" I asked.

But Jeannette persisted. "Those are just technical problems," she said. "The pro-life people have always said there were enough people willing to adopt the babies, and it's just a matter of time before the country gets a national health plan like Canada's. I really think the end of this nasty debate is at hand."

I tried to imagine Phyllis Schlafly or Ann Bowen lining up to adopt an unwanted pregnancy. Somehow it didn't seem too realistic.

"But Jeannette," I argued, "there are 1.5 million abortions a year in the United States alone. Do you really think there are that many people who want babies bad enough to take on someone else's pregnancy? People aren't ready for this. Besides there aren't enough operating rooms to handle the traffic."

"Look, that's not the point," she said. "Obviously it won't happen overnight. And we all know that the real solution to abortion is better birth control. But think about the legal implications if they overturn Roe, or even pass a Human Life Amendment. A woman will be able to terminate a pregnancy, and declare the fetus a ward of the state. Then it will be the government's problem to find a surrogate."

I wasn't sure whether she was on solid ground there. Maybe they would allow termination of pregnancy only if a surrogate had already been found.

"Jeannette, do you really think this could happen? Even if every committed pro-lifer would sign up for gestational adoption, do you think that society will ever be willing to make such a commitment of resources and technology to saving fetuses?" I asked.

Then we both recalled a couple of recent pro-life demonstrations we had seen and reminded each other of the number of people there. Maybe it was possible.

That night I dreamed Nebraska had become completely pro-life and that pregnancy transplants were done routinely instead of abortions. Pregnant women who feared that they might miscarry, found surrogates to carry on if they couldn't. Even rape victims usually



were moved to adopt out their conceptuses.

Then my dream recorded an even more remarkable advance: in addition to fetuses and embryos, doctors perfected the technique of transplanting entire uteruses into female and male recipients. My lifelong fantasy had come true: men could now be pregnant.

It wasn't long before every neighborhood had someone who was on the "daddy track." Some couples took turns. When wives had diabetes or other medical risks they could turn the task over to their huddies. Pregnancy was elevated to a new state of respect. Unwed fathers were hailed as heroes, and Dustin Hoffman was cast in a movie as a single gestational dad. People would make excuses for a person's failings if (s)he were pregnant: "Oh, no is Jack late *again*?" "Haven't you heard — he's *pregnant*." Job promotions were offered. Credit ratings even improved.

Then the dream lost its utopian glow. A new virus struck the Midwest, threatening huge numbers of miscarriages. No fetus was safe — drastic measures were considered.

Remnants of the old pro-life movement were called to assist. Peter Battalion offered to become a surrogate and Andrew Sullivan bellied up. A handful of the clergy volunteered for duty. Jack McCaslin "put his body on the line."

But, despite the best efforts of pro-lifers, surrogates could not be identified fast enough. Fetuses began to die. A crisis was at hand.

The governor called the legislature into Special Session. They were considering a draft. It would be "sort of like jury duty," said John Lindsay.

Everyone agreed that biological parents should be first in line, and this usually meant that uninfected fathers would have to take over the pregnancies. (This caused some minor inconvenience; many men would seek vasectomies after their first unintended pregnancy.) But by the time the session convened, so many people were infected that the draft was being considered for any uninfected adult.

People started looking for loopholes. Archbishop Sheehan and Bernice Labedz opted out on grounds of age and frailty. Denny Hartford injured his back. Hal Daub renounced his Nebraska political career and moved to Sweden.

The legislature immediately named groups to be exempted: the old, the young, and any elected official.

But the debate raged on. Shouldn't people with vows of celibacy be exempted? If so, shouldn't everyone who wasn't sexually active? What about those who were sexually active but practicing birth control? What about those who were sterile and had no need for birth control? What about those who were sexually active but only with members of the same sex? Etc., etc.

As the floor debate began, TV cameras from around the world crowded the floor and balcony. Just how far would Nebraska, now recognized world-wide as a model pro-life society, be willing to go to save its endangered unborn?

Some thought the problem should be handled on a market model; Revenue Department experts were called in to estimate the cost of the state making incentive payments adequate to attract surrogates. When the figures came in at \$300,000,000, the idea was quickly abandoned.

Someone suggested a massive advertising campaign to recruit volunteer surrogates, but that idea was soon seen as inadequate.

Eventually the senators had to deal with the unpleasant thought of a gestational draft.

Ernie Chambers tried to filibuster, but was quickly overcome by an easily rallied three-fifths majority. Remnants of the Nebraska

Civil Liberties Union tried in vain to make the case that no fetus was important enough to justify compulsory pregnancy. Some previously pro-life men began to think they might be right, but they couldn't gain momentum fast enough to deflect the draft. As I woke up, thousands of draftees of both sexes were being given sedation for their part in saving the endangered fetuses.

I called Jeannette to tell her my dream. "Remember that essay Gloria Steinem wrote about 10 years ago, 'If Men Could Menstruate?'" I asked. "Maybe it's time for an update."

"Yea," she said, "and don't forget what Mom always said."

We said in unison, "Nothing is impossible to the man who doesn't have to do it himself."

## What To Do With The Frozen Embryos?

There are now close to 10,000 frozen "embryos" (actually, zygotes) in *in vitro* clinics in the United States. Some have been suspended in liquid nitrogen since 1985.

Some questions regarding the ethics of preserving or not preserving this "life:"

What should be the government's role in assuring that these embryos are implanted and given a chance to develop?

For those whose parents have divorced, died, or had a health change that would rule out pregnancy, what should be done with the offsprings?

Should surrogate parents be recruited? What if the biological parents object? Should the surrogate parents be offered any incentive if not enough volunteer?

### Observer Mailbox

## Reader Lauds 'Reality Reporting'

I received a copy of the Observer today. Although I have not read all the pieces yet (my husband snatched it when he got home from work), I am very impressed with what I have read. I'm having a sort of "where-has-this-been-all-my-life" reaction! I'll be subscribing as will, I suspect, some of my friends. I did read the page 2 article about the opponents of LB 1059 and found its revelations most distressing. I think that, unfortunately,

about 98 percent of Nebraska's citizens think that we're such a "home-spun" little state that we're immune to this kind of "money talks" influence in our politics. The fact that one seldom hears the reality about such things only perpetrates that attitude. I'm so pleased to have been introduced to a publication that offers "reality reporting." Thank you.

—Mary Louise Brown  
Kearney, Neb.

## Time to Renew?

Remember: If the Humane Society  
can go door to door this summer,  
so could we —  
So pony up.

# Should the ADL 'Brief' the National Guard?

by Ernie Chambers

The author is a member of the Nebraska Legislature.

*Editor's note: It is important to note that the trip that this article refers to was requested by Israel and the invitation was extended by the National Guard Bureau to the Nebraska National Guard. Because it was an invitation, and not mandated by the federal government for troop training, it could have been turned down by the Adjutant General of the Guard, even though it might have later put Nebraska in an unfavorable position when the Bureau considered Nebraska for other missions.*

A June 9 article in the Lincoln Journal stated that 35 members of the 155th Civil Engineering Squadron of the Air National Guard "will travel to Israel in mid-July to learn Israeli Air Force techniques of rapid repair of battle-damaged runways." They will be there for 15 days.

I am disturbed by this portion of the article:

*In preparation for their overseas trip, the Guard members on Sunday will visit the Omaha Jewish Community Center, where the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith will provide them with cultural, historical and other information about Israel.*

*The latter program is the brainchild of ADL director I. Robert Wolfson of Omaha who said that the upcoming deployment provides "a great opportunity not only to help the Guard, but also to provide important details about the extremely complex situation in Israel today."*

I wrote to the governor addressing my doubt that any occasion will arise when members of the Nebraska Air National Guard will have to repair "battle-damaged runways," and questioned the validity of the trip.

However, what appears to be totally inappropriate is to have members of a state organization, paid by tax money, attend sessions which can be described as "political indoctrination," "propaganda," or "political proselytizing," by an organization dedicated to the advancement of a specific political position.

What legitimate and compelling state interest is served by sending members of the Nebraska Air National Guard to the Jewish Anti-Defamation League for "cultural, historical and other information about Israel?" What connection does such subjective, political propaganda have with "repairing battle-damaged runways" (assuming such a venture can somehow be justified)?

Will sessions include "cultural, historical and other information about Palestinians?"

Why do the Guard members need to be provided with "important details about the extremely complex situation in Israel today?" Is the Anti-Defamation League an adjunct to the Nebraska Air National Guard or is the Guard to be made an adjunct to the Anti-Defamation League?

Will the "important details" include information about the Israeli government's policy of **destroying the homes** of "suspects in stone-throwing attacks?" Or the **acquittal by an Israeli judge, of four Israeli soldiers (on manslaughter charges) who beat a Palestinian man to death with broom handles and rifle butts?** Or the **light, five-month sentence** given by an Israeli court to Rabbi Moshe Levinger who murdered a Palestinian shopkeeper — when "the prosecution, in a surprise move, withdrew its manslaughter charges?"

Will the Anti-Defamation League propagandist discuss the 1990 U.S. **State Department report** (even though "sanitized" by "substantial alteration in Washington to make it appear less critical of Israel") which criticized Israel for a **"substantial increase" in human rights violations?** Or "the massive report issued May 17, 1990 by a Swedish child advocacy group (Save the Children)" which documented **more than 100 cases of Palestinian children under the age of 16 having been killed by gunshot or tear gas at the hands of Israeli soldiers?**

Will there be a discussion of the take-

over of a **"church-owned hospice** in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's walled Old City," by Jewish nationalists **"financed by the government"** — and the U.S. State Department's "sharp criticism of the Israeli government" for such financing? Will there be a discussion of "Israel's shocking behavior" editorially condemned by the Omaha World-Herald (May 31, 1989)?

How much will the taxpayers shell out for the indoctrination sessions? How much is the entire exercise going to cost the State of Nebraska? Will all of the cost be handled by the state (Military Department funds)?

Other than for **junket** purposes, what is the justification for sending 35 people to Israel to "learn" about the "rapid repair of battle-damaged runways?" When has the Nebraska National Guard ever been sent into a combat situation where **anything** was battle-damaged and required "rapid repair?"

President Bush paid a cynical visit to North Omaha where he made some ridiculous comments about a situation of which he was profoundly ignorant or misinformed — and where he insulted an entire community and its residents by referring to it as "the killing grounds." **He could have found a way to praise the few without insulting the many.**

Perhaps I am overly suspicious during this election year—but I certainly hope Governor Orr's office is not attempting to "make political hay" with certain groups, as did President Bush.

## Nuclear Waste Incineration

from page 1

importing hazardous wastes," said Sarich.

And nuclear wastes, if Sarich is right.

### Security and PR

Although Kaufman questions whether Amoco would lend its good name to the incinerating of other wastes, Sarich points out that Amoco has already distanced itself from Waste-Tech. "Waste-Tech doesn't use Amoco's logos," he said. "It mentions Amoco's name only before state officials, not in its presentations to the public."

Sarich continues to question Waste-Tech's operation. He said when the company hired a security firm, it chose one owned by the parents of the sheriff, which Sarich considers a conflict of interest. "Where is the training? Where is the liability? If they handle security like this, how are they going to handle other things that come up?"

Sarich said Waste-Tech now operates only one incinerator. "They call it a thermal-oxidation unit, which is a PR term," Sarich said. "It's mounted in the back of a truck."

Both Sarich and Lanphier argued that the plant Waste-Tech points to in Lake Charles, La., is a comparable example. "PPG (a paint company) operates it themselves. They know what their waste stream is."

Waste-Tech tried to get into Rockport, Mo., but they were run out of town. Rockport would have been perfect, because it was close

to Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, all of which have nuclear waste disposal problems. Kerr-McGee, for example, in Oklahoma has thousands of barrels it needs to dispose of. (Interestingly, Oklahoma, unlike Nebraska, isn't paying any of the up-front costs of the compact, because it supposedly has no major generator. Yet the state produced totals of 4,900; 10,300; 49,815; 82,855; and 28,466 cubic feet from 1984 through 1988. The formula to qualify as a major generator is 4,000 cubic feet per year over a period of three calendar years. It would appear that there could be at least one "major generator" contributing to these totals.)

### Other Pieces of the Puzzle

"In 1974 Harry Conger, now Waste-Tech president, was working for the Idaho Nuclear Energy Facility in Idaho Falls.

"Until 1988 Waste-Tech was owned by Bechtel. Bechtel is currently US Ecology's subcontractor for the low-level nuclear waste facility.

"Both OPPD and NPPD, nuclear waste generators, argued at the hearings last year in favor of delisting the ash from Waste-Tech's proposed incinerator.

"The nuclear power industry is preparing an application for BRC.

"Nebraska operates two nuclear power plants.

All coincidences? Sarich doesn't think so.

## Omaha Indians Lose Battle to Claim Iowa Farmland

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (Special from the Associated Press) — Indians of the Nebraska-based Omaha tribe have lost a bitter legal battle to claim a broad stretch of rich western Iowa farmland and woodlands as their own.

A lawsuit filed by the tribe claiming 8,000 acres along Iowa's side of the Missouri River belonged to the reservation on the Nebraska side was thrown out of court Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Warren K. Urbom of Lincoln, Neb., dismissed the case "with prejudice," which means the tribe's claims to the stretch of land in Monona County are barred forever.

"I do it with reluctance," Urbom said. "This sanction is a distasteful one. So, however, is the record of past and intended future non-compliance. The course of the case has been tortuous and torturous. It must now end."

The tribe said it will appeal the decision.

The tribe had earlier lost a fight for 2,900 acres of neighboring land, a portion of which falls in Iowa's borders. The Omahas began their fight 15 years ago, claiming the river changed its course to the west and left their land in Iowa.

"I never thought it would come to the point where I would say to the Indian tribe that you will not get a fair trial," said William Veeder, a Washington, D.C.-based lawyer representing the Omahas.

"But there is no way they are going to get a fair trial. The political power is too great. This is a couple of white guys talking about the white man's approach to a tiny minority," he said.

Veeder said he was referring to Urbom and U.S. District Judge Edward McManus of Cedar Rapids who ruled against the Indians in earlier rulings.

The lawsuit had pitted the Omahas against property owners and the state of Iowa, as well as the courts. The tribe had charged that the land was obtained fraudulently and the courts were part of the alleged scheme.

Iowa officials contended the river gradually changed course and scores of white landowners legally acquired the land over the years.

Iowa's Attorney General Tom Miller said he welcomed the ruling. He said the landowners were unable to sell their land or borrow money on it while the case was in court.



# 'Dyspeptic' Son, Disbarred Dad; What to Do?

Dear Lulu:



Dear Lulu: I hope this last primary election for governor taught everyone a lesson that your vote really does count. My family voted Democratic this year because of the flu virus that was going around. We didn't care for the candidates too much so I voted for William Jennings Bryan; my husband Buddy voted for Americus Vesputius; and my live-in brother-in-law voted for George Norris. We're just sick, because if we hadn't wasted our votes, we could have elected the next Democrat for governor! Any advice?

—Love, a Voter in Verdigre

Dear Voter: If you think you wasted your vote, pity those poor suckers who hit the polls for Paid Kay, Ms. PacMan of the Midlands.

Seriously, your candidates sound excellent. Who are they exactly?

—Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu: Every night, I keep having this same dream where I'm dating Dan Quayle and then the next day I throw a sheaf of his papers at him because during our date he'd only talk about his war record and wouldn't mention my pink chemise. What is this?

—Love, In a Pucker in Pine Ridge

Dear In a Pucker: First of all, it's a nightmare, not a dream. Second, it's a sheaf of bricks, not paper. Third, what accessories were you wearing with your chemise? Fourth, don't go to sleep. It's obviously not good for you.

—Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu: I'm writing to you about truth in advertising and how some people just lie. So we went down to Lincoln a few weeks ago to see "Les is Miserable," which we thought was a farming musical about how farmers are always picked on, but when we got there it was this crazy thing about some Frenchmen who kept singing all the time, and the stage kept spinning around. Les and I paid good money for those tickets and we think we should get a refund.

—Love, Mad in Madison

Dear Mad: Or a lobotomy. Get a satellite dish. You'll like it better.

—Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu: I've been trying to get a divorce from this jerk for a year but he moved out on me and keeps jackin' me around and now he told me he's getting married Sunday and wants me to be in the wedding but when I asked him how could he get married when we're already married he said he told them I was dead so on Sunday he wants me to pretend that I'm his sister but his sister has a big wart on her nose and I don't like her. Do I have to do this?

—Love, Mixed Up in McCook

Dear Mixed: Did you get invited to the shower? Do you have to go to the rehearsal? Do you have to buy your own dress? Is there beer at the reception? These are some of things you need to know before making up your mind. Hope this helps.

—Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu: What's all this fuss about a new "Sue and Hide" Machine I keep hearing about on the radio? Don't we have enough lawyers already? Now we need a machine to do it? And then one that doesn't own up to it?! What is this world coming to?!!

—Love, Been-Sued-Before in Beldon.

Dear Been: Perhaps a little Old-Timers Disease, in your case. Although there's no definite clue, I think you're talking about the "suicide machine" invented by retired Dr. Kervorkian, late of Royal Oak. Look into it.

—Love, Lulu

Dear Lulu: My dear son Basil called me today and wants to move back home. He's had problems over the years, what with that latest idiot wife of his, his getting disbarred and his one son being dyspeptic. His social security will come in handy but Basil's step-father objects — what with his mother and her cousins living here already, it's getting kind of crowded. Also Basil wants to bring his nut collection with him. Is this too much?

—Love, A Mother in Mud Springs

Dear Mother: Certainly not. It's the '90s! As for his nut collection sprinkle it in amongst your own. No one will notice.

—Love, Lulu

**Got a question you're ashamed to ask? Got a hint on handling troubles? Tell Lulu Marie Gotcha, your friend. Address your letters to Dear Lulu, Nebraska Observer, P.O. Box 31383, Omaha, Neb. 68131.**

## Neil Bush, Silverado S&L: Talk About Teflon

Observer reader John Brown called the following article to our attention. Brown also pointed out that World-Herald readers had not been informed of the \$100,000 loan described below.

Several other papers seemed to take the story more seriously than our favorite local daily, with many, such as the Denver Post, running it as the lead story May 24.

by Mark Shields

Aneurin Bevan, the late British Labor Party leader, did not try to conceal his contempt for what he judged to be his country's unaggressive press corps. Once, when asked about proposed measures that could raise the threat of press censorship, Bevan responded: "You don't need to muzzle sheep."

That putdown could be used to characterize the outrageously submissive deference shown by opposition Democrats and most of the Washington press corps toward the First Family of President George Bush. Politically, Bush has been granted a nonstick coating that makes Ronald Reagan's vaunted Teflon look like Velcro by comparison.

Here are the facts. Neil Bush, 34, President and Mrs. Bush's third son, is under investigation for possible conflicts of interest as a director of the Silverado Savings and Loan of Denver, which one year after its own auditors found it insolvent and just weeks after the 1988 presidential election, was closed by

federal authorities, at a projected cost to American taxpayers of \$1 billion.

No one blames the younger Mr. Bush for the collapse of Silverado. But Neil Bush is being asked to explain a couple of truly unusual relationships he had with two Colorado businessmen, both of whom first invested in Neil Bush's own company and later defaulted on millions in loans from Silverado.

Take Neil Bush's unorthodox relationship with developer Ken Good. In 1984, Good made a loan of \$100,000 to Neil Bush to invest in a high-risk venture. The terms were that Neil Bush did not have to repay the \$100,000 to Ken Good unless the investment was successful. That's right, this may have been the first completed loan in financial history in which the creditor defaulted.

In testimony before the House Banking Committee, Neil Bush was recently asked about this special relationship with Good. In a masterpiece of understatement, the president's son said, "I know it sounds a little fishy, but I've heard this happen before."

Not in my neighborhood you haven't, Mr. Bush. There, such transfers are usually made in cash inside an unmarked No. 10 business envelope. The Good-Bush transaction may qualify as a gratuity, as gravy, as grease, or worse. But it was not by any definition a loan.

Even though he was required to disclose his relationship with Good and failed to do so,

Neil Bush said he abstained from voting, as a director, on loans Good sought from Silverado. But the House committee released a letter written by Neil Bush, as director, to the Silverado chairman requesting a \$900,000 line of credit for Ken Good, who had earlier bought a 25 percent interest in Neil Bush's own oil and gas exploration company for \$10,000. That \$10,000 made Good a lot bigger Neil Bush's company than Neil Bush himself, who put up just \$100.

But Good was a small fish compared to Denver real estate developer William Walters who purchased for \$150,000 a 6.25 percent share of Bush's company. You figure it out.

As a director of Silverado, Neil Bush did not disclose his relationship with Walters. Nor did Neil Bush abstain from voting to approve \$106 million of loans to Walters, all of which went into default.

Nor was Bill Walters just a borrower, either. Walters was a lender, too, through the Cherry Creek National Bank, which Walters controlled. Among those to whom Bill Walters' bank made loans was Neil Bush, who was able to borrow \$1.75 million from Cherry Creek National.

About that \$106 million in defaulted loans: the bill for all that and the rest of Silverado's billion-dollar tab will be picked up by the working men and women of America who pay their bills, raise their families and pay

their taxes — and who not surprisingly never had anyone say: Here's a hundred grand. Pay me back only if your ship come in; otherwise forget it.

What truly is surprising is the failure of the political press and the political opposition to confront the Bush involvement in the savings and loan scandal. Would George Bush be given the same Teflon treatment if his name were Carter or Nixon or Cuomo or Reagan?

Remember the public pummeling Billy Carter took for openly accepting \$5,000 to appear at a stock car race? Howard Hughes' loan to Richard Nixon's brother became a permanent campaign issue. Yet no presidential relative before has been personally involved in a failed enterprise that left American families as co-signers for a billion-dollar default.

Maybe it's Andover or Yale, or Greenwich or Kennebunkport that exempts the Bushes from ordinary criticism. Maybe it's just the moral superiority of the Mayflower Compact descendants as heard in the words of Massachusetts Republican William Weld, who, when asked where his 1990 gubernatorial campaign got the money for a large TV buy, told The Boston Globe: "We don't get money. We have money."

(c) 1990, Mark Shields  
Distributed by Words by Wire

# Report Calls Ground Water Pollution 'Irreversible'

*This article was originally published in the Des Moines Register May 31, 1990.*

by George Anthan

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new report by a national panel of experts portrays the nation's ground-water contamination problem in grim terms and emphasizes the complex technical, economic and political barriers to finding solutions.

The Congressional Office of Technology Assessment's report ties agricultural practices solidly to contamination of the water supply on which half the nation's residents depend for drinking.

Ground water, the report said, "is largely beyond the reach of remedial actions and contamination is essentially irreversible."

Thus, contaminants must be prevented from entering water resources. But this course presents a host of problems which neither Congress nor the Bush administration has begun to effectively address, the report makes clear.

OTA, which advises Congress on scientific and technical issues, assembled an 18-member panel, including Donald Duwick, recently retired as vice president for research at Pioneer Hi-Bred International; Richard S. Fawcett, a consultant from Huxley, Iowa; George Hallberg, Iowa state geologist; and Dennis Keeney, director of the Aldo Leopold Center at Iowa State University.

OTA blames much of the pollution of ground-water supplies on wasteful and inefficient application of agricultural chemicals by commercial applicators and farmers who lack adequate training.

There are no effective national standards for training and testing of chemical applicators, OTA said, and state rules vary widely.

"Only an estimated 1 percent of applied agricultural pesticides reach the desired target," the report said, "implying that nearly

99 percent then may be lost to the environment."

Also, it said, there is a lag time in chemicals moving slowly through soil to appear much later in water, there is a lag time in research leading to effective prevention measures, and there is a lag time in adoption of such methods.

There have been major improvements in recent years in pesticide efficacy, OTA said, but "little advantage is gained in developing and using products with greater efficacy if the smaller amounts applied per acre do not arrive at the target pest."

Chemical application equipment and technology have "not kept pace," the report continued, since large farm equipment manufacturers don't consider this to be "an important market segment...."

This is despite strong evidence that direct injection of fertilizers and pesticides into the soil shows promise for improving efficiency, for cutting volume and for significantly reducing environmental damage.

The ground-water contamination issue has resulted in increased attention focused on agricultural practices by a wide range of environmental, conservation, consumer and scientific groups.

The House and Senate agriculture committees, in writing a new farm bill, have moved haltingly to address the problem. The Senate committee has adopted a plan by Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, under which the federal government will help farmers develop management plans calling for more efficient — and presumably less — use of chemicals.

But both committees have rejected calls for a tougher, regulatory approach to farm chemical use. Also rejected so far are calls for mandatory gathering of data on farm chemical use and on well-water quality.

Yet, only a massive, well coordinated and

financed national program of data gathering, education, training, research and regulation can offer hope of eventually reducing the level of contamination without damaging crop productivity, the report said.

"Prevention or minimization of ground-water contamination from agricultural barriers is fraught with barriers," it said.

The pollution comes from tens of thousands of points where farm chemicals are used and stored. Cropping and tillage practices vary widely. And what happens to chemicals once they're applied depends to some extent on weather and on the environmental and ecological factors peculiar to the site.

Then, pest populations go through cyclic, if unpredictable, cycles, the report noted.

## This Generation and the Next Will Pay For Supply-side Hoax

by Wallace Peterson

Between 1980 and 1989—the Reagan era—the national debt of the United States grew by \$1.9 trillion!

\$1.9 trillion. That is 1,9 followed by 11 zeroes—\$1,900,000,000,000!

Can anyone comprehend such a figure? Numbers like this belong to astronomy, the realm of light years, not everyday experience.

Nonetheless the number is real, and, whether we like it or not, affects us where it hurts the most—in our pocketbooks!

How can such a number be brought down to earth? Easy. Just convert the number to a per family basis. Grab your hand calculator, and, quick as a wink, it is done.

In 1980 the federal debt for the proverbial family of four was \$15,632. By 1989 this debt had grown to \$31,028, a 98 percent increase.

We all have to pay taxes to service the debt, but our incomes have not grown as fast as the debt. Between 1980 and 1989 average weekly earnings grew by only 43 percent.

Paying taxes to pay interest on the debt doesn't bring federal goodies to most of us. But it does put money into the pockets of those who own the debt, mostly folk at the top end of the income scale.

In 1980 only 9 cents of the federal budget dollar went to pay interest on the debt; now it is over 14 cents. This may be one of the reasons why people are angry with Washington—too much of their tax money disappears into the fiscal black hole created by the federal debt.

Richard Cohen, a columnist for *The Washington Post*, recently offered some neat ideas on understanding the debt and what it means to the average person.

Scare tactics are the usual way politicians and others try to get the public to ponder our

"The overarching question begging answer is how management of water, crops, soil, nutrients and pests can be integrated" to cut pollution without reducing productivity, it said.

Because agriculture is so diverse in the United States, "no one strategy is likely to be adaptable to farms of all types.... There is no technological 'black box' that can be universally adopted...."

While agreeing that farmers themselves are becoming concerned about the possible impact of chemical use on their families, OTA emphasized that the U.S. has no defined goals in agricultural or environmental policy.

©1990 Des Moines Register and Tribune Company. Reprinted with permission.

astronomical debt. "Think," they say, "about the awful burden we are putting on our grandchildren."

The trouble is, as Richard Cohen notes, this won't work. "Who cares about our grandchildren?" he asks, "They haven't done anything for us." Moreover, the idea that we can pass the true costs of the debt onto generations yet unborn is all wrong. We—the current generation—are bearing the costs.

What costs? They are, Cohen says, the S & L bailout, a failing educational system, disarray in health care, a crumbling infrastructure, to name but a few of the problems which lie behind our mushrooming debt.

How did we get into this fix? Cohen suggests we think of our government as a house, one which the family bought some years ago for \$100,000, but now is worth \$300,000.

A wise family might conserve its growing equity in the house, using it someday to finance college for the kids. Instead, the family in Cohen's little parable borrowed its equity to "...buy a car and a pool...take some vacations and purchase oodles of things made in Japan or Germany."

So the money is gone, the house falls into disrepair, and the kids can't go to college. This, Cohen explains, is what we have been doing as a nation.

Why did we do this? That is easy. It was because Ronnie and other politicians told us what we wanted to hear—that we can have all the goodies we want from government, but we really don't have to pay for all of them.

But — and this is Cohen's real point — the ragtag economic theory called supply-side economics that said we could cut taxes, raise military spending, and balance the government's books was, and remains, a lie. It can't be done.

I think Mr. Cohen is right.

## Ag Subcommittee Chair to USDA: Stop Attacking Sugar Subsidies

*This article originally appeared in the National Farmers Union Washington Newsletter, June 15, 1990.*

Rep. Jerry Huckaby of Louisiana, chairman of the House Agriculture subcommittee on cotton, rice and sugar, has scathingly denounced USDA for "heavy-handed attacks" on the U.S. sugar stabilization program.

Huckaby focused his comments on a sugar section of a USDA publication, "Farm Bill Issues: Background Facts," and on views of Secretary of Agriculture Clayton K. Yeutter and Undersecretary Richard Crowder. Huckaby maintained that a letter to the House Agriculture committee by Crowder contain several statements which USDA knew were untrue.

The subcommittee chairman protested that instead of sticking to the facts, USDA was

spreading misinformation about the current sugar programs and efforts of the House Agriculture committee to retain and improve it.

The full House Agriculture committee on May 24 approved the renewal of the sugar program at existing support levels for the next five years.

The committee action extended the length of the sugar program to nine months from six.

The committee version established a minimum sugar import quota of 1.25 million short tons. It also approved limited concessions for Caribbean Basin sugar-producing nations, through a re-export program.

Rep. Huckaby said that even with the committee changes, the program would continue to operate at no cost of the U.S. Treasury, as required by law.

# the fifteen dollar business card ad page

Registered Representative

**Metropolitan Life**  
AND AFFILIATED COMPANIES

**Denny Holland, CLU**  
Senior Sales Representative  
Service From 1954

 Triangle Executive Center  
1309 Harlan Drive, Suite 102, Bellevue, NE 68005  
Office: (402) 291-7030 Residence: (402) 342-4889

John Rice

**Dundee Book Company**

 5105 Dodge Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68132

402-558-9119 9-9 Mon-Sat Noon-5 Sun

**REJOICE**

LUTHERAN CHURCH

2556 South 138th Street • Omaha, Nebraska 68144

 Kenneth R. Wittrock  
Pastor

 Phone Office: (402) 334-1999  
Home: (402) 493-9079

**Richard D. Fitzgerald, D.D.S.**  
FAMILY DENTISTRY

 5709 MILITARY AVENUE  
OFFICE 551-1757

 OMAHA, NE 68104  
RES. 397-5805

**Roger Carroll Construction**  
3034 Lincoln Blvd.  
Omaha, NE 68131  
(402) 342-5870

**STAGE DOOR**  
**Music & Video**

 416 So. 15th Street • Omaha, NE 68102  
(402) 341-1502

**BARRY BOTTGER**

 Buying & Selling  
LPs, CDs, Cassettes, Beta, VHS  
Music & Movie Collectibles • Special Orders

 3031 Leavenworth  
Omaha, NE 68105

Printed on Recycled Paper

**Leavenworth**  
Neighborhood  
Association

Observer Readers are  
your kind of people;  
put your card here  
for \$15

**MARY C. GRYVA**

 ATTORNEY-AT-LAW  
319 SOUTH 17TH STREET, SUITE 228  
OMAHA, NE 68102

402/346-0874

**hair • art**

 556 0220  
3924½ farnam

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT, INC.**  
ELECTRONIC • SERVICE • SUPPORT

 ROBERT ANDREW FOSTER  
(402) 571-9824

 3015 NO. 90TH STREET  
OMAHA, NE 68134

**BILL'S SINCLAIR INC.**  
4651 DODGE STREET  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68132  
(402) 556-7034

**BILL PELTON**  
OWNER

 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
CUSTOM EXHAUST — COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR  
TOWING SERVICE  
TIRES — BATTERIES — ACCESSORIES

**The Grainery**  
Whole Foods Market and Bookstore  
7409 Main Street  
Ralston  
593-7186

 Patricia E. Funk, Ph.D  
Research Consultant

 8101 Boyd St.  
Omaha, NE 68134

(402) 571-4506

**RobinsonAbraham,**  
INC.

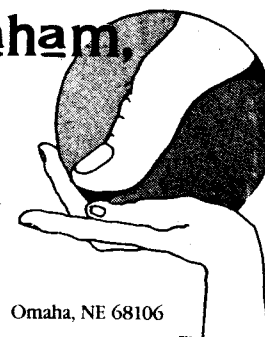
*The Bodymind Approach*

 Stephen J. Abraham, M.S.  
CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR  
MASSAGE THERAPIST

402/553-5976

5550 Mason

Omaha, NE 68106



Call 551-2629 for a monthly Business Card Ad Plan

# The 'MacNeil/Lehrer Vanilla Pudding Hour'

*One factor behind the near-total exclusion of public interest voices from "public TV's" NewsHour is the arrogance of the program's two main anchors: Robert MacNeil and Jim Lehrer. According to former NewsHour staffers, Lehrer reacts to proposals that policy critics be put on the air by dismissing them as "moaners" and "whiners." As for chief anchor MacNeil, he has a unique view of this country's political spectrum. When asked why his program tilts so strongly toward representatives of the right, he has a stock answer: "There is no left in this country."*

—FAIR

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON "As an admirer of the debating skills of Sen. Orrin Hatch, a Utah conservative, I had another moment recently to appreciate his talents. He was on the "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour." Hatch's quickness of mind is easy to admire because none of his ideas get in the way.

That cheap shot aside "only expensive ones from now on" MacNeil/Lehrer viewers can't help but marvel at Hatch. He is often on the program. The same for other Senate and House conservatives who are regulars: Malcolm Wallop, Richard Lugar, Henry Hyde and Mickey Edwards.

These five conservatives were among eight members of Congress appearing on MacNeil/Lehrer three or more times in a six-month period in 1989. Only one of the eight, Michigan's Rep. David Bonior, is a strong liberal.

## MacNeil/Lehrer's guest list teeters between a rightward tilt and a rightward prostration.

On the MacNeil/Lehrer Vanilla Pudding Hour, five guests from the right and one from the left is a diversity. A watcher of the program's lineup is Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), a New York non-profit group that works to eliminate bias and censorship in the media. From the evidence that FAIR reported last week, MacNeil/Lehrer's guest list teeters between a rightward tilt and a rightward prostration.

In the nightly roundup of experts, two corals were drawn on: the conservative Center for Strategic and International Studies and the more conservative American Enterprise Institute. While 14 guests were brought in from those bastions, no one was invited from such established liberal centers as the Institute for Policy Studies or the World Policy Institute.

Ninety percent of the U.S. guests on MacNeil/Lehrer were white, and 87 percent male. Eighty-nine percent were current or former government officials, corporate officers, or such professionals as doctors, lawyers

and academics. Six percent of the guests — about one in 20 — were from labor groups, public-interest centers or racial and ethnic organizations.

During the six months, 17 guests — all white males — appeared to discuss environmental issues. Only one came from an environmental group, the rest from governmental agencies or corporate interests.

With such equanimity, hosts Robert MacNeil and Jim Lehrer, the ho and hum of television journalism, have no trouble maintaining an air of high-toned cerebral discourse. Should a prickly moment occur, one elite guest can console another.

FAIR cites a program when the chairman of Exxon apologized for the Alaskan oil spill. The governor of Alaska came to the rescue: "The chairman of the board of Exxon, I think, has been too heavy on his own company....obviously Exxon's skipper cause this accident, but after it took place, I think that Exxon did a good job under the circumstances, I really do." No environmentalist was on the program to say he really didn't.

To satisfy viewers who might savor a taste

of journalistic wildness, the program offers David Gergen and Mark Shields for gentlemanly sparring. The one is a former press aide to Ronald Reagan who called his master's penchant for storytelling a "folk art," the other a dehydrated centrist Democrat specializing in quips.

MacNeil/Lehrer is but one example of conservative and centrist partisans being allowed to dominate issue-oriented programming. A whole dugout of right-wing promoters — John McLaughlin, Patrick Buchanan, Robert Novak, William Buckley — has the playing field to itself, with no corresponding time for those dissenting from the left.

Earlier this year, FAIR reported on 865 "Nightline" programs and its 2,498 guests in a 40-month period. With 14 appearances each for Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig, and 12 each for Elliott Abrams and Jerry Falwell, the "Nightline" guest list showed a systematic slant favoring America's power-wielders and a comparative lockout of public-interest progressives challenging governmental and corporate power.

Television's idea of balanced discussion is

CNN's "Crossfire," the nightly shout show that pits Patrick Buchanan "from the right" against Michael Kinsley "from the left." Only Buchanan is accurately labeled. Kinsley, neither left wing nor right wing, is a collection of loose-flying feathers that wafts away on whatever breeze of intellectual quirkiness he can find.

FAIR's exposure of MacNeil/Lehrer drew a touchy response. Its producer, after denying that his program is one-sided, says: "The problem is that FAIR is concerned with having its own bias represented." True. FAIR's bias is for intellectual pluralism and diversity. The group, which believes in balance, has documented a factual case that both MacNeil/Lehrer and "Nightline" are well-guarded enclaves of predictable establishment thinking that heavily favors the right and the well-positioned.

That FAIR is now being dismissed as disgruntled leftists by the MacNeil/Lehrer producer is in keeping with television's orchestrated resistance to dissent.

©1990, Washington Post Writers Group

## Chronology of MacNeil/Lehrer Lowlights

*In its Volume 3, No. 4 Special issue, FAIR provided its readers with a chronology of MacNeil/Lehrer missteps, which follow:*

### MARCH 1982

Jeane Kirkpatrick tells MacNeil/Lehrer that Nicaragua's Sandinista government is building concentration camps for more than 250,000 Miskito Indians. No one points out that the Miskito population is less than 90,000.

### SEPT. 23, 1987

After Nicaragua's government declares cease fire zones and allows reopening of opposition media outlets, MacNeil/Lehrer's news roundup features this spectrum of responses: 1) a contra representative; 2) Elliott Abrams ("a trick"); 3) Phyllis Oakley of the State Department ("just cosmetic").

### JANUARY 1988

Months after Elliott Abrams is exposed as having lied to Congress, he is offered two

segments "as against one for a Democratic spokesperson" to debate contra aid. Abrams is not asked: "Given your track record, why should the public believe you?"

### FEBRUARY 1988

A poll of right wing activists at the Conservative Political Action Conference ranks MacNeil/Lehrer as the "Most Balanced Network News Show."

### NOV. 3, 1988

When vice presidential candidate Dan Quayle refuses to be interviewed by MacNeil/Lehrer, the program follows its interview of candidate Lloyd Bentsen with one of Quayle's 20-minute, flag-draped stump speeches...just as the Republicans had wanted.

### MARCH 24, 1989

The day Secretary of State Jim Baker works out an agreement with Congress enabling more aid to go to the contras, anchor Jim Lehrer wraps up his interview with Baker:

"Mr. Secretary, congratulations on your deal and thank you for being with us."

### DEC. 21, 1990

During the Panama invasion, after quizzing a panel of US military experts as to whether "we" had wiped out the Panamanian Defense Forces, anchor Judy Woodruff concludes: "So not only have we done away with the PDF, we've also done away with the police force." Woodruff was not wearing battle fatigues.

## Kiewit Firm's Labor Practices Ruled Unfair

In a dispute sometimes called the "Pittston of the West," a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) law judge has ruled that United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1972's two-and-a-half-year strike against Decker Coal Company, owned by Omaha's Peter Kiewit Sons Inc., has been caused by the company's unfair labor practices.

The ruling requires the company to return 80 miners to work. They will get back pay for

the two years since they offered to return to work. The NLRB is still investigating the status of the remaining 152 Decker miners. The Decker, Montana facility is one of the largest surface coal mines in the country.

About half the coal from the Decker mine is purchased by Commonwealth Edison in Chicago, where union activists are working to pass a city council resolution stopping the use of scab coal.

According to  
UNICEF, 87  
out of every  
100 children in  
El Salvador  
die before the  
age of 5.



# EPA Official Accuses Nightline of Distortions

*This article originally appeared in Lies of Our Times (a magazine devoted to media criticism, specifically of The New York Times, considered the United States' "newspaper of record"), June 1990.*

by Dick Russell

April 5, 1990, ABC-TV's news program, Nightline, devoted its half-hour to "low-level" radioactive waste, focusing on a small Nebraska county selected to receive such waste from seven nuclear power plants in five states by 1993. In preparing its coverage, Nightline first contacted Hugh Kaufman, a well-known whistleblower in the Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous-waste-siting division who, on his own time, was helping Nebraskans fight the dump.

At a "Save Boyd County" rally the following weekend, Kaufman described to a crowd of more than 600 the events surrounding the airing of the program. Noting that this was "firsthand evidence that I would swear to in a court of law," the EPA official told of having informed Nightline producer George Rivera about the Nebraska saga. "Then, just about when the crew was supposed to arrive in Nebraska, Mr. Rivera called and told me he was getting a lot of pressure from corporate ABC and might not be able to come. I said, 'Well, I can understand how that works, because major advertisers of the big networks can obviously influence them.' Mr. Rivera assured me that, 'No, that wasn't the problem.' He called me back and assured me they would come after all." (Both Rivera and

Nightline spokesperson Laura Wessner denied ABC's corporate structure sought to interfere in the program. "This is categorically untrue," said Wessner; "they are not involved in what we do on a day-to-day basis.")

And come they did. Rivera, correspondent Jed Duvall and the camera crew arrived in the small town of Nelson to cover a citizens' monitoring committee meeting. "We started to put on record substantive technical issues," said Kaufman. These included the background of US Ecology, the developer selected to build the \$40 million site in Nebraska. US Ecology built two leaking nuclear dumpsites that have contaminated the groundwater in Illinois and Kentucky, and which are now closed.

"After about two hours of this," recalled Kaufman, "Mr. Rivera beckoned me over and said, 'Hugh, when are you gonna stop doing all this legal and technical b-s? Where's all the emotional stuff?' I told him that I thought it was important to film the technical issues so the Nightline audience could see the effort Nebraska citizens are putting into it. I said, 'This is not a bunch of emotional lollipops here. These are real people who know little about nuclear waste - farmers who've got to make a living' taking their time to learn about the issues because a bunch of quick-buck artists have basically bought off a couple of politicians in the state.' Well, George wasn't happy about this, and after a while the cam-

eras started to come down."

The Nightline crew then went to Lincoln, Neb., to review videotaped footage of earlier, more heated gatherings. "They said they wanted action," said Lynn Moorner, of Concerned Citizens of Nebraska, who provided the tapes. When the segment aired, as Kaufman reported, "They defined the issue this way: The public are a bunch of emotional misfits who think about Chernobyl and aren't doing their homework, while proponents are these brilliant technical experts. In other words, they walked in with a predetermined story when, in fact, what they had seen in Nebraska was just the opposite."

That was only the beginning. "Right before the show, I got a frantic call from Craig Zeisler (chairperson of Save Boyd County)," continued Kaufman. "He told me Nightline had lined him up to debate a highly paid Ph.D. proponent of siting radioactive waste facilities. Craig's a decent hard-working young man, but he's at the front end of learning about this and had never been on national TV before. My first reaction was, I'm sure there's something wrong. Ted Koppel wouldn't do anything this outrageous, would he?"

When the "debate" portion of Nightline began with novice Zeisler up against Stanley Goldsmith of the N.Y. Waste Site Commission, Zeisler demanded to know, "Why am I

debating? Why don't you get some expert from the EPA?" Koppel, taken aback, replied along these lines: "Well, I thought it would be best to get someone from here and someone from there."

The Nightline segment did not address US Ecology's dismal track record, or the charges of potential fraud and bribery that Kaufman and the Concerned Citizens of Nebraska had initiated against state officials, or the possibility of "mixed waste" from nuclear weapons factories being shipped to a site on the edge of the Ogallala aquifer.

Ironically, added Kaufman, an ABC affiliate in Syracuse, N.Y., had recently aired a hard-hitting look at the radioactive-waste issue. "That documentary was reviewed by George Rivera and the ABC network people," he said, "so they can't claim they didn't know the issue. But, after all, their affiliate is a small station that doesn't depend on advertising from corporations that could be helped by a nuclear dump in Nebraska."

Nightline producer Rivera refused to comment on Kaufman's allegations. "Our producer had lengthy conversations with Kaufman on the background for the piece," added Wessner. "We did not ask him to be a guest because we wanted someone who had lived there all their life and could represent the average citizen taking a stand."

## Abortion Protest Acquittal

*Continued from page 2*

to know about fetal neurological development are that three things make awareness possible, myelination, neocortical development, and numbers of synapses formed, and none of these develop in a meaningful way until month seven. References provided on request.) At present, no appeal is planned, but perhaps that will change. All in all, we think most prosecutors would have handled the case differently.

Even so, the need for a serious answer from the choice people is still with us, not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because court battles will demand it of them.

### The Embattled Middle of the Road

It isn't easy trying to carve out a compromise abortion position. As Public Pulse readers know, my car was damaged while I carried a sign at a pro-life demonstration in June. It had the earmarks of vandalism; I pointed this out to the World-Herald. Bob Blank of Metro Right to Life suggested in letters to the Pulse and the Catholic Voice that my car might have been damaged before I got to the rally.

It's infuriating to be the victim of an apparent act of vandalism. When I cooled down, I asked myself what the best response that I could give might be. I decided to take out an ad in the Catholic Voice and seek some reconciliation. The ad said: *Gandhi would have approved.* I am seeking a person of con-

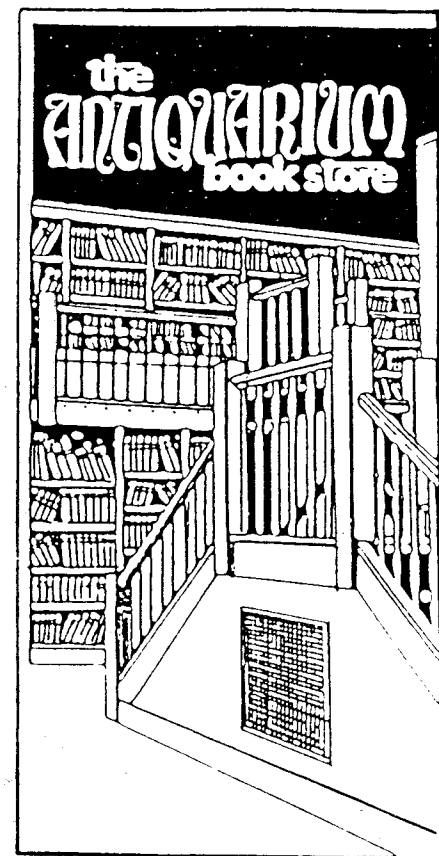
science who does body work. My car was damaged while I was carrying a sign at the Father's Day pro-life rally. The sign borrowed a thought from C. Everett Koop, "Abortion will end when birth control works." I would like some help fixing it. I want to pay for supplies and do as much of the work as I am capable of, with the help of an expert. I am also seeking dialogue on the subject of abortion. Contact Frances Mendenhall 551-2629 or 554-0617.

What the Voice printed, after taking my money for the ad, was completely sanitized. No mention of Gandhi, Koop, the circumstances of the damage to the car, or my desire for dialogue. They had told me they could print it as I wrote it, but must have changed their minds. When editor Stephen Kent said he wouldn't be able to run it as I wrote it even in the next issue, I asked for my money back. He had printed a long letter trashing me for calling attention to the strange circumstances of my car getting vandalized.

I wouldn't expect the archdiocese to accept an ad for an abortion clinic. But my intention was fence mending and problem solving. I accused no one.

There can be no doubt that the intention of the Catholic Voice was to silence me; we can only guess the motive of the person who damaged my car.

So it has been a long week, and I still have to fix the car. Anyone good at body work?



Dedicated to an appreciation of Books

Art coffee and Conversation

## The Antiquarium

- Books
- Art Galleries
- Records
- Magazines

1215 Harney Street  
Omaha

## a r t e x h i b i t s

**Summer Art**

A variety of summer art workshops and classes are being held at the Threlkeld Art Studio, 324 So. 68th St., through July 28. Call 556-2256 for more information.

**Gallery Listings****Adam Whitney Gallery**

8725 Shamrock Road, Omaha  
393-1051  
Hours: 10-5 Monday through Saturday

**Antiquarium Gallery**

1215 Harney Street, Omaha  
341-8077

**Artists' Cooperative Gallery**

405 So. 11th Street, Omaha  
342-9617  
Hours: Wed.-Thurs. 11-5; Fri. & Sat. 11-10; Sunday noon - 5.

**Bellevue College Gallery**

Galvin Road at Harvell Drive, Bellevue  
293-3732  
Hours: 8-9:30 M-F; 9-5 Sat.; 1-5 Sun.

**Bemis New Gallery**

614 So. 11th, Omaha  
341-7130  
Hours: 11-5 daily.  
July 12: Bemis Lecture at 7 p.m. with Hyun Soo Choi (France; painting) and Steve Reynolds (Texas; ceramics/sculpture).

**Burkholder Project**

719 P Street, Lincoln  
477-3305  
Hours: 10-5 Monday thru Saturday  
Through July: Bobby Sward

**Cathedral Arts Project**

St. Cecilia's Cathedral  
701 No. 40th Street  
558-3100  
Hours 1-3:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday and by appointment.

**Creighton Fine Arts Gallery**

Creighton University  
27th and California, Omaha  
280-2509  
Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-4 Sunday.

Gallery 72  
2709 Leavenworth, Omaha  
345-3347

**Garden of the Zodiac**

Old Market Passageway, 1042 Howard, Omaha.  
341-1877 .,

**Haydon Gallery**

8th and R, Hardy Building, Lincoln  
475-5421  
Hours: Mon-Sat 10-5.

**Haymarket Art Gallery**

119 So. 9th Street, Lincoln  
475-1061  
Hours: 10-4:30 Tues.-Sat.; 1-4 Sunday.  
Mondays by appointment.

**Hillmer Art Gallery**

College of St. Mary, 1901 So. 72nd Street, Omaha  
399-2621  
Hours: 1-5 daily except Friday.

**Iowa Western Community College Fine Arts Gallery**

2700 College Road, Council Bluffs  
325-3352  
Hours: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
Jul. 7 - Aug. 17: IWCC Student Works, mixed media.

**Jewish Community Center**

333 So. 132nd St., Omaha  
334-8200  
Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. M-Th.; 8-5 Fri.; 1-7 Sat.; 1-7 Sun.

**Joslyn Art Museum**

2200 Dodge, Omaha  
342-3300  
Hours: 10-5 Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10-9 Thurs.; 1-5 Sunday.  
Admission: \$2 for adults, \$1 under 12.  
Free Saturday before noon and to members.  
July 7 - Aug. 26: "Portraits and Prospects: British and Irish Drawings and Watercolors from the Collection of the Ulster Museum, Belfast."  
Sept. 15 - Nov. 4: "Midlands Invitational 1990."  
Oct. 20 - Dec. 16: "The Modern Pictorialism of D.J. Ruzicka."

**Local Artists Exchange**

Standard Blue  
1415 Harney, Omaha

**Museum of Nebraska Art**

24th and Central Ave., Kearney  
(308) 234-8559  
Hours: 1-5 Tuesday thru Saturday  
1990 Shows:  
Through July 4: Lincoln Highway.

**Passageway Gallery**

417 So. 11th, Omaha  
341-1910  
Hours: 11-5 M-W; 11-9 Thurs.; 11-10 Fri. & Sat.; 12-5 Sun.

**Photographer's Gallery, Inc.**

4831 Dodge Street, Omaha  
551-5731  
Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1-5 Sun.; Closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

**Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery**

12th and R Streets, UNL Campus, Lincoln  
472-2461  
Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10-5; Sun. 2-9; Thurs.-Sat. 10-5 and 7-9; closed Mon.  
Through August 19: Three concurrent one-person exhibitions with work by David Simpson, Edward Ruscha and David Novros.

**13th Street Gallery**

1264 So. 13th Street, Omaha  
Mixed media

**University of Nebraska at Omaha Gallery**

62nd and Dodge Streets, Omaha  
554-2686  
Hours: 8-5 Monday-Friday

**Art Institute of Chicago**

Michigan at Adams  
Chicago, Ill.  
(312) 443-3600  
Hours: 10:30 -4:30 Mon., Wed.-Fri.; 10:30-8 Tues.; 10-5 Sat.; noon-5 Sun.  
Suggested Admission: \$5; seniors, students, \$2.50.  
Continuing: Ellsworth Kelly. Six paintings conceived especially for the museum's Sculpture Court.  
Through July 1: "Emilio Ambasz: Architecture, Exhibition, Industrial, and Graphic Design."  
Through July 29: "The Gerald S. Elliott Collection."  
Through August 12: "Monet in the '90s: The Series Paintings." Advance tickets available through TicketMaster outlets.  
Charge by phone (312) 559-0200.  
July 26 - Oct. 28: "Lenore Tawney Retrospective."

**Des Moines Art Center**

4700 Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, Iowa  
(515) 277-4405  
Hours: 11-5 T, W, F, Sat.; 11-9 Thurs.; noon-5 Sun.; closed Mon.

**Museum of Contemporary Art**

237 E. Ontario  
Chicago, Ill.  
(312) 280-5161  
Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; noon-5 Sunday

**Museum of Contemporary Photography**

Columbia College  
600 So. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.  
(312) 663-5554

**The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**

4525 Oak Street  
Kansas City, Mo.  
(816) 561-4000  
Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; 1-5 Sunday.  
Admission: \$3 adults; \$1 students.  
Permanent collection free on Sat.  
July 22 Sept. 2:  
--"Japonisme Comes to America, 1876-1925"  
--"George N. Barnard: Photographer of Sherman's Campaign"  
--"Drawings by Francesco and Giovanni Carlo Bibiena"

**Peace Museum**

430 W. Erie  
Chicago, IL  
(312) 440-1860  
Hours: noon to 5 daily; noon to 8 Thursday  
Current: "Everyone Has the Right to..."  
Art Interpreting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.  
Permanent Exhibits: "The Unforgettable Fire," drawings by survivors of atomic bombings, "The Ribbon," textile art on the themes of life and hope.

**Sioux City Art Center**

513 Nebraska Street  
Sioux City, Iowa

**Terra Museum of American Art**

666 North Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL  
(312) 664-3939  
Hours: Tues. noon to 8; Wed. - Sat. 10-5; Sunday noon to 5

**Walker Gallery**

Vineland Place  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
(612) 375-7622  
(612) 375-7636 Recording  
Permanent: Cowles Conservatory: Horticultural installation and "Standing Glass Fish" by Gehry.

Calendar Item Announcement? Call John Boyd at 341-9313

## a r e a e v e n t s

**Special Events**

Through July 29: "Leonardo," 26 interactive working models made from Leonardo da Vinci's scientific and technical drawings. At the Omaha Childrens Museum, 500 So. 20th Street. \$3 admission. Hours Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m.

**July 4:**

July 4th Parade in Ralston beginning at 1 p.m. near 80th and Q, continuing to 74th and Main.

**July 9:**

Aerosmith in concert at the Civic Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

**July 13-15:**

International Antique Show and Sale at the Civic Auditorium, 18th and Capitol. Hours Fri & Sat noon to 9 p.m., Sun 1-6 p.m. Admission \$1.75.

**July 15:**

Columban Fathers Festival with games, children's rides, food and drinks. All day at St. Columban's located at North Calhoun Street off Mission Avenue in Bellevue, noon to 10 p.m., free admission.

**July 16:**

WWF Superstars of Wrestling at the Civic Auditorium.

**July 20-22:**

Country Peddler Show with country, primitive, Victorian and Southwestern crafts. At the Civic Auditorium Convention Hall, 18th and Capitol, Fri 4-9 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission \$3.75, children 6-12, \$1.50, five and under are free.

**July 21-22:**

Nebraska Flea Market & Collectors Show at the Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission.

**July 28-29:**

Midwest Putters Association Tournament at Putt Putt, 9112 W. Center Road, noon. Entry fee is \$10.

**FILM SERIES**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Summer Film Series presents outdoor film showings on the east side of the CBA building near 63rd and Dodge. Free admission.

**July 6 & 7:**

"Reefer Madness"

**July 13&14:**

"Can't Stop the Music"

**July 20 & 21:**

"Plan 9 from Outer Space"

Sheldon Film Theater presents films at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery on the University of Nebraska campus, 12th & R in Lincoln. General admission is \$4.50; senior citizens, children and students are \$3. Call 472-5353 for information.

**July 1, 5-8:**

"Black Rain," a 1989 Japanese film by Shohei Imamura screens at 7 & 9:15 p.m. Matinees Sat at 12:45 & 3 p.m.; Sun at 2:30 & 4:45.

**July 12-15 & 19-22:**

"Spices," a 1987 Indian film by Ketan Mahta shows at 7 & 9:15 p.m. Matinees Sat at 12:45 & 3 p.m.; Sun at 2:30 & 4:45 p.m.

**July 26-29:**

"Mr. Hoover & I," a 1989 U.S. film by Emile de Antonio screens at 7 & 9 p.m. Matinees Sat at 1 & 3 p.m.; Sun at 3 & 5 p.m.

**Music & Dance****July 8:**

Bob Ralston Organ Concert at the Orpheum Theater at 3 p.m. The former Lawrence Welk musician will perform on the Wurlitzer pipe organ. Admission is \$10 reserved, \$3 general.

**July 19-22 & 26-29:**

"Carousel" presented by Opera/Omaha at the Orpheum Theater. <4points>

Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thurs; 8 p.m. Fri & Sat; 2 p.m. Sun. Prices range from \$10 to \$30. Call 346-0357 for ticket information.

Jazz on the Green is a series of free outdoor concerts held at Joslyn Art Museum's Sculpture Garden beginning at 7 p.m. For additional information call 342-3300.

Concert dates and artists are:

**July 5:** Ida McBeth & Friends

**July 12:** Resurrected Swing Orchestra

**July 19:** Calvin Keys

**July 26:** Four Heads

Sounds of Spring are free noon concerts at the City/County Building, 18th and Harney, sponsored by the Omaha Parks & Recreation Department and the Omaha World-Herald in cooperation with the Omaha Musicians Association Local 70-558.

Scheduled groups for July and August are:

**July 3:**

Chris Stovall, pop & jazz.

**July 5:**

Steven Rehbein Quintet.

**July 10:**

Liz Holmes, '40s music.

**July 12:**

Sunny Side Up, '50s rock 'n' roll.

**July 17:**

Gulizia Brothers Plus Two, variety.

**July 19:**

Kenny Roberts, pop.

**July 24:**

Lambert Bartak, pop & polkas.

**July 26:**

Idederod Quintet.

**July 31:**

The Pulse, rock 'n' roll.

Music in the Parks concerts are held on the east end of Central Park Mall beginning at 6 p.m. Concerts are co-sponsored by the Omaha City Parks & Recreation Department in cooperation with the Omaha Musicians Association Local 70-558. Concerts for July and August are:

**July 1:**

Nuncio Pomodoro and Bill Wakfield & Random.

**July 8:**

Chuck Penington Combo and Hi Tech Jazz.

**July 15:**

Big Little Band and Pat Higgins Quartet.

**July 22:**

Lenny Four and Peter Marsh Combo.

**July 29:**

Horns A Plenty and Sunny Side Up.

Summer Concerts at Rockbrook Village, 108th and Center Streets are free, and start at 7:30 p.m. Concert dates and groups are:

**July 13:**

Resurrected Swing Big Band.

**July 20:**

Dixieland Workshop.

**July 27:**

'Bout Time.

Ralston Park Concerts are held at 6 p.m. at Ralston Park, Park Drive & 84th Street. July and Aug. dates and groups are:

**July 22:**

Sunny Side Up.

**July 29:**

Nuncio Pomodoro Dixieland.

**Sports**

The Omaha Royals play professional AAA baseball at Rosenblatt Stadium, I-80 and 13th Street. For ticket information call 444-4750 or 734-2550. Home games for July and August are:

July 1-3: vs. Indianapolis Indians at 2:05 p.m. Sun; 7:05 p.m. Mon and Tue.

July 4-6: vs. Syracuse Chiefs at 7:05 p.m.

July 7-9: vs. Iowa Cubs at 6:05 p.m. Sat; 2:05 p.m. Sat; 7:05 p.m. Mon.

July 14-16: vs. Iowa Cubs at 6:05 p.m. Sat; 2:05 p.m. Sat; 7:05 p.m. Mon.

July 18-20: vs. Tidewater Tides at 7:05 p.m.

July 21&22: vs. Richmond Braves at 6:05 p.m. Sat; 2:05 p.m. Sun.

July 30&31: vs. Oklahoma City 89ers at 7:05 p.m.

**Theater****July 1:**

"Enter Laughing" presented by the Grande Olde Players Theater, 39th and Jones at 2 p.m. Call 551-8434 for reservations or information.

Through July 7:

"Ruddigore" at the Rudyard Norton Theatre, 5021 Underwood Avenue, call 551-7360 for reservations. Curtain Thur-Sat at 8 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Adult admission \$10.55, seniors and students \$9.50, under age 12 \$6.30.

Through Sept. 1:

"Murder a la Carte" at the Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 So. 19th Street. Call 344-7777 for reservations. Thur-Sat 6 p.m. Matinees Sunday and Wednesday at noon. Price for show and buffet, depending on day, \$14.95-\$22.95.

**July 1, 6, 8:**

"Macbeth" presented by Shakespeare on the Green, a free outdoor presentation south of the UNO library parking lot, 63rd and Dodge. a "Greenshow" of music, dance jugglers and acrobats begins at 7:30 p.m., play at 8:30.

**July 5&7:**

"Merry Wives of Windsor" presented by Shakespeare on the Green, a free outdoor presentation south of the UNO library parking lot, 63rd and Dodge. a "Greenshow" of music, dance jugglers and acrobats begins at 7:30 p.m., play at 8:30.

**July 3-Aug. 5:**

"Driving Miss Daisy" at the Firehouse Dinner & Theatre, 11th and Jackson Street. For reservations or information call 346-8833. Tue-Sat dinner at 6 p.m., show at 7:30 p.m. Sunday dinner at 5 p.m., show at 6:30 p.m. Sunday matinee dinner at noon, show at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday matinee dinner at 11 a.m., show at 12:30 p.m. Admission is \$12-\$18 for the show only, \$20-\$24.50 with dinner and show.

# Lamb's Quarter: a Tasty Spinach Substitute —And it's free (in summer)

*Nebraskans are fond of thinking up new uses for existing crops, like ethanol and cornstarch additives to make trash bags biodegradable. Some have also suggested alternate uses for plants not yet thought of as crops, like making a down substitute out of milkweed.*

*Well, we at the Nebraska Observer believe that the state has long overlooked the market potential for one of our favorite edible plants,—  
lamb's quarter.*

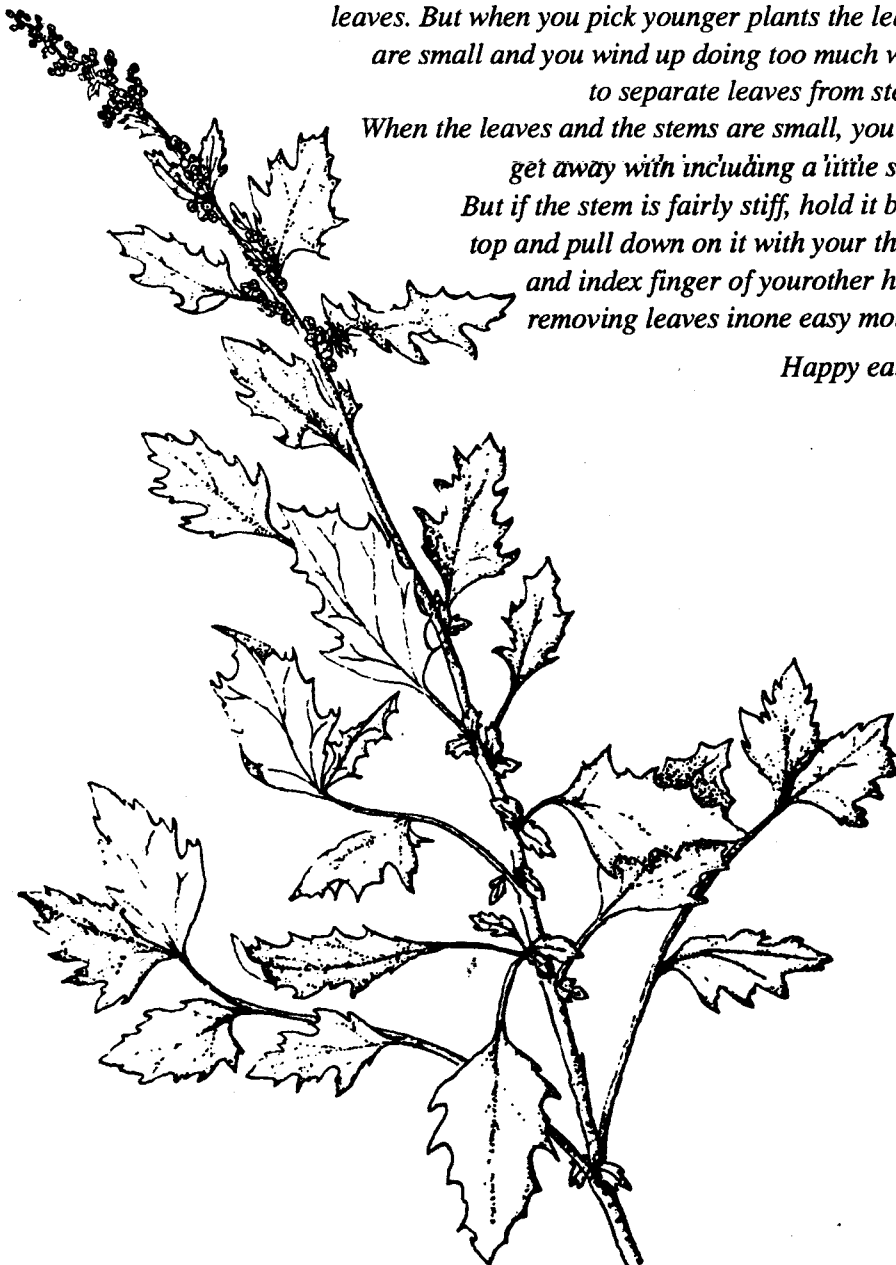
*Lamb's quarter is a delicious and nutritious vegetable. Actually, we don't have any idea what the nutritional content of the noble weed is but maybe by the next time the Observer goes to print someone will come forth with the information and we can print it.*

*We do know that it is tasty and colorful. We have tried it in at least 10 recipes that call for cooked spinach, and in every case its flavor and color were better. Recipes we have prepared usually get compliments, although one kid who never eats anything green did complain.*

*Lamb's quarter grows anyplace you let it. If you haven't used very many broadleaf weed killers in your yard, it will thrive. Think of it as potential gourmet dinner. Here is what you need to know about harvesting it. What you really want is just the leaves. But when you pick younger plants the leaves are small and you wind up doing too much work to separate leaves from stems.*

*When the leaves and the stems are small, you can get away with including a little stem. But if the stem is fairly stiff, hold it by its top and pull down on it with your thumb and index finger of your other hand, removing leaves in one easy motion.*

*Happy eating.*



## Cream of Lamb's Quarter Soup

Microwave. Then blend in enough water to cover.

1 carrot  
1 onion  
1 clove garlic  
1 potato

Microwave 1 lb. lamb's quarter in 1 c. water 'til wilted. Puree in blender.

Make a roux by whisking 1/3 c. flour into 1/3 c. melted butter. Whisk in 2 c. milk and cook over very low heat, stirring until thickened.

Add the lamb's quarter to the roux, along with 1/2 tsp. salt (to taste), pepper, 1/2 tsp. basil, pinch nutmeg, pinch thyme (or any fresh herb such as parsley or marjoram).

Add first mixture to second. Adjust seasoning and, if too thick, add milk. Heat and stir over a very low flame until smooth, creamy, green and fragrant.

Preparation time: 40 minutes. Serves four to six.

## Lamb's Quarter-Ricotta Pie

*Crust:*

Cut together 1 c. flour (4/5 c. white plus 1/5 c. whole wheat is a good combination — that's approximate, of course) and 1/3 c. cold butter. Use a pastry cutter or two forks, or a food processor fitted with a steel blade. Try to work quickly so ingredients stay cold.

When the mixture is uniformly blended, add about 3 T. cold buttermilk or water (buttermilk is preferred) — enough so that mixture holds together enough to form a ball.

Chill the dough at least one hour. Makes 1 9-in. unbaked pie shell.

*Filling:*

*Sautee in butter:*

1/2 lb. lamb's quarter leaves, 1 small diced onion, with black pepper, 1/2 tsp. salt, and 1/2 tsp. basil

1 lb. ricotta cheese  
3 beaten eggs  
3 T. flour  
1/2 c. grated sharp cheese  
dash of nutmeg

Mix everything together, blending well. Spread into unbaked pie shell. Top with 1 c. sour cream spread to edges of crust and a generous application of paprika. Bake in a 375 degree oven for 40 to 45 minutes.

## Lamb's Quarter-Yogurt Sauce

Good on grains, noodles (add some parmesan), baked potatoes, poached egg.

1 lb. fresh lamb's quarter — cleaned and steamed

1/2 tsp. salt  
1 c. firm plain yogurt, room temperature  
2 T. sour cream  
2 T. butter  
2 T. flour  
black pepper to taste  
pinch of nutmeg

(optional: 2 c. chopped onions, sauteed in butter; 1/2 c. grated cheddar)

Place wet, washed lamb's quarter in a saucepan, add salt, and cook until slightly limp and very deep green. Puree the cooked lamb's quarter in its own liquid in a blender.

Melt butter, whisk in flour. Cook, whisking 2 to 3 minutes. Add purée and cook 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Add seasonings (and the onions and/or cheese, if you chose to include them). Just before serving, whisk in the yogurt and sour cream.